

THE LUTHER LEAGUE OF AMERICA

High Ideals



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Christian Vocation Day
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Theme: "Managers for God"

EMPHASES — CHRISTIAN LIFE ATTITUDES
STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENTS, AND MONEY

High Ideals

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COVER PICTURE

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD JAMES SPORNY, LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MARYLAND, RECENTLY WAS AWARDED THE PRO DEO ET PATRIA AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK AS A BOY SCOUT AND AS A YOUNG CHURCHMAN IN ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION, WHERE HE IS AN ACOLYTE. TO COMPLETE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD HE HAD TO WRITE A LENGTHY PAPER ON THE REFORMATION AND THE WORK OF MARTIN LUTHER.

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Idea Counter

Two supplementary topics are printed on pages 3 and 7. Consider them if you find that you cannot adapt certain scheduled topics printed in this issue to your league program. Here are several more suggestions to aid you in your planning.

Recognition of Confirmands

Be sure to schedule a program in honor of the confirmands in your church. If they are not already league members, you will want to introduce them to your youth program.

Some leagues prefer a full-dress program for this occasion, planning a dinner capped by special skits describing their work. Other groups like an informal setting and get together for a doggie roast. Still others polish up a regularly scheduled program until it sparkles with interest, and then ask the confirmands to be their guests. To climax the evening they prepare a special worship service for these newest confirmed members of their parish.

Question Box

Directions for this meeting are simple. On the Sunday before you schedule this program, place a box in your league meeting room. Let your leaguers drop in the box questions that they would like answered. Perhaps you will want to limit the subjects to those about Christian beliefs and customs, and personal problems. Of course, no names are signed to the questions.

Then arrange for your pastor or another competent adult to answer the queries at the next meeting. Don't take your "expert" by surprise. Deliver the box (unopened) to him immediately so that he can take time to prepare his answers.

Scavenger Hunt for Clothing

May is the month in which the church

particularly stresses Lutheran World Action. Why not schedule a scavenger hunt for good used clothing to ship needy people overseas?

Divide the league into teams, assigning each a certain area to conduct its hunt. In one small community teams of intermediates from a league rang the doorbells of every single house in town. They took them two meeting nights. But the piles of clothing they had gathered were staggering.

Parents' Night

Many leagues sponsor a parents' night at least once a year to help the adult members of the congregation become aware of the work the league is accomplishing. This might be a good time to plan a discussion on home problems that bother teen-agers. Then both young people and their parents can think through together such questions as, "Do parents have a right to pick your friends?"

Your panel might consist of members of your league and parents. Each side should be given the opportunity to air its opinion on each question.

The best way to select problems to discuss is to let the leaguers decide upon a list in advance. Be sure to arm all of your panel members with the questions several days before the meeting. And of course, pick a neutral person to be moderator.

Another program source for a parents' night might be a filmstrip entitled "We Grew Together." It pictures the story of the problems a teen-aged fellow and his parents faced as he grew to become an adult. The filmstrip should provoke a lot of discussion among guests and leaguers. Order it from the United Lutheran Publication House, 1228 Spruce St., Philadelphia 7, Pa. Rental charge is 75c plus postage.

*If you crave a date, remember
to put your best foot forward*

DATE RATE

By C. Betty Edwards

TWO questions that have been asked since men and women began multiplying upon the earth are, "How do you get up enough nerve to ask a girl for a date?" and—on the other side of the fence—"How do I get him to ask me out?"

For the most part, the people who have asked these questions have set their minds to what they want and planned ways of accomplishing their ends. Juliet did not exactly sit and wait for Romeo to come and woo her. No sirree, she did some scheming we can be sure.

Probably the best way employed to arouse the attention of someone you are interested in dating is to be yourself under all circumstances, be interested in what he or she does, be courteous, happy, spic and span, a good sport. He or she is bound to notice you much more quickly than if you try to impress him or her in some unnatural way.

Taking part in school and church activities, supporting the teams at athletic contests—these provide means of meeting new friends of both sexes.

Many wholesome and lasting friendships have resulted from a casual meeting in the church. Here introductions are made easily and naturally. Conversation, discussion, Christian fellowship and companionship come about as a result of common interests and through working together for great things.

On the short end

Young people who find themselves on the "short end" of dating and are unhappy about it might do well to study their relationships to the groups that they come into contact with. Are they enthusiastic members of their school, club, or church? Are they "builder-uppers" or "tearer-downers"? Are they of the "let George do it" clan or the "lifters" club?

To be liked and accepted in a group, one needs to learn early that sharing in the "give and take" of the group is important. What he observes about her in the group may determine whether he asks her for that date. What she observes about him in the group may determine whether she accepts that date.

Sometimes one takes a look in the mirror and blames what he sees for being on the "short end" of dating. That's hardly fair. All you need to do is take a look around you. The great majority of people are not what you would classify as "tall, dark, and handsome" or "beautiful dolls". In fact, some of the "eye catchers" are simply good-groomers.

Granted, then, we are not all perfect portraits. But good grooming can do wonders for even the "saddest sack".

Attention getter

If there is one sure way of catching attention, it is to be friendly. Such an attitude simply amounts to an overflow of interest in what others are doing, backing them up in their successes and their failures, going out of the way to say hello, and doing all these because you really like to. Both boys and girls admire this quality of sheer friendliness for friendliness sake.

Some schools and churches make it a policy for its members to speak to everyone they meet on the property. The net result is that many people who are timid about speaking to strangers overcome this shyness and establish friends of both sexes.

Why talk so extensively about friendship when this is an article on dating? Dating is a quite natural outcome of a boy-girl friendship. The friendly gal or guy most of the time is the popular gal or guy.

Mind your manners

Mr. Martin winced and the evening paper fell into his lap, as the blast of a horn announced an arrival just outside. "Mary, will you get down here and tell that young man to stop choking that horn! Why can't he use those galloping football legs to walk up our front steps?"

Mary gulped behind her lipstick and timidly moved down the steps past her roaring father. If only she could make both these men understand each other.

What Mary's date had never learned may seem like a small matter, but his lack of consideration for others (which basically constitutes good manners) won him the black looks of Mary's family. In fact, Mary didn't like the idea too well herself.

The unfortunate part about poor manners is that they stick out like a hole in a stocking. And it may take years to darn the hole, for some people formulate their opinions entirely on first impressions.

Let's see how you measure up as mature moderns in these items on the manners' agenda:

1. At church who leads the way down the aisle if there is no usher? Boy or girl?

2. In getting on a bus, who goes first? Boy or girl?

3. In getting off a bus, who goes first? Boy or girl?

4. In a restaurant, if there is a head waiter or hostess, who follows first? Boy or girl?

5. What are the rules for "cutting in" at a dance?

6. If a misstep is made while dancing, who should apologize?

7. When the music stops and one dance ends, what is the proper procedure to be followed by both boy and girl? (This, of course, applies to a couple who have not come together to the dance.)

8. At a dance or party what courtesies should be shown to the chaperons?

9. Should a girl be allowed to help decide what to do on a date?

10. Should a boy wait until he arrives at his date's house to tell her his plans? What complications could result?

Answers to manners

1. The boy, who looks for the seat.

2. Girl.

3. Boy, so that he may help her.

4. The girl. If there is no hostess, then the boy leads the way.

5. "Cutting in" is all right pro-

vided that the privilege is not abused. One boy should not "cut in" for a second time until approximately three dances have elapsed.

6. The boy should apologize, never the girl.

7. The boy should thank the girl for the dance and escort her to the place where she wants to sit or to her friends. She should never thank him for a dance, but make some statement about enjoying the dance.

8. Chaperons usually are not thrilled with their duties. The least young people can do is to notice them by speaking to them as they arrive and as they leave. When it comes time for refreshments, remember that adults, too, have stomachs. Courtesy says serve them first.

9. There is no definite answer on this. Some girls prefer to have the boy make the plans, whereas others like to suggest. The same is true of the boys; some prefer to lay all the groundwork themselves; others say, "What would you like to do?"

10. To keep his plans up his sleeve until he steps inside his girl's front door is sheer nonsense. He may have decided to go skating, and she turns out in her new three inch heels and frills. To prevent this and similar tragedies, it is wise for the boy to give the girl ample notice about how he intends to entertain her.

Steady or not steady

When it comes to dating, some follow the idea that "variety is the spice of life" while others prefer one and only one. Some choose to go steady in order not to find themselves unsteady when it comes time for a date. To explain—a steady date saves a lot of looking around when a party arrives. Going steady in some cases is simply a matter of convenience and security—you will get places with someone.

There is another side to going steady, too. Two people who enjoy the company of each other, find they have similar interests, and realize their

friends are all going steady, sometimes decide they also would like a steady date.

In a discussion on going steady these questions might well be considered:

1. Are other friendships curtailed when two people devote time to each other? How might this be overcome?

2. Is there as much opportunity for a person to develop personality with one other companion?

3. How does going steady affect you socially?

The old days

There was a day (and in fact, this practice continues in some countries today) when a young woman was kept in seclusion until the day of her marriage to a man she had never seen. Neither he nor she had any choice in the matter. They had no opportunity to date each other to find out if they liked each other or had similar interests. The customs of some peoples promised a child at birth to a friend or neighbor's child for marriage.

Most countries and most people have come a long way. Young people are given much more freedom to choose the company they want. However, certain standards exist even in our own day that young people on the advice of their parents, teachers, and pastors follow to insure their own happiness.

IN ADDITION to the questions given in this article, it might be well to hand out slips of paper on which the leaguers could write any questions on dating which they wanted answered.

A panel discussion could be used in connection with the questions on manners and/or on the questions that follow here. Perhaps a boy, a girl, a parent, and the pastor could constitute the panel. In this way adult and experienced counselling could be coupled with the teen-age point of view. A trained guidance counsellor from a school in the area might also be willing to serve on the panel.

Another possibility is to conduct a quiz—boy (the male point of view) versus

girl (the female point of view)—on these questions:

1. How often should high school teens date?

2. Do you think high school teens should date during the week? Or on week-ends only?

3. Do you think parents should set a time for daughter and son to be home?

4. Do you think high school teens should go steady?

5. Do you notify parents when you cannot meet their getting in deadline?

6. Do you keep your date waiting?

7. Do you break dates without valid reasons?

8. Do you ever brag about your dates?

It is likewise possible to dramatize some of the points raised in the questions on manners. For example, a couple could do the wrong things, and then volunteers

from the group could tell or show them the correct way. Getting on and off a bus, entering a restaurant, etc., offer possibilities.

Worship outline

HYMN—"Blessing and Honor," CSB 295

SCRIPTURE—I Timothy 4: 4-12

PRAYER—O God, help us as Christian young people to take thee and thy ways with us into all phases of our lives and activities. Keep us ever mindful of thy holy presence as we work and as we play. May we seek only the best in our relationships with our fellow beings, that all we say and think and do may be pleasing to thee. We ask all these things in the name of thy Son, who, like us, once walked the earth as a teenager. Amen.

HYMN—"Love Divine, All Love Excelling," CSB 276

Pen Pal Page

The following young people would like to correspond with other Luther leaguers. If you want a pen pal, write to one of them, or send your name, address, age, league, and list of interests or hobbies to "Pen Pal Page" in care of *High Ideals*, Luther League of America, 1228 Spruce St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.

JAGDATT V. TOOLSIE, Lancaster Village, Corentyne Coast, British Guiana, South America. Age: 16 years, 8 months. Member St. James' Luther League. Interests: Stamp collecting, cricket, volleyball, fishing. Work: Teaching.

JAMES BURDINE, 1217 Thirty-eighth Ave., Menominee, Mich. Age: 18. Interests: Sports, church activities, reading, hobbies.

JOYCE BREMER, 301 Park St., Marietta, Ga. Age: 14. Interests: Dancing (ballet), horses, Luther League and church work, sports.

PATRICIA ANN SCHULTZ, Box 46, Eganville, Ontario, Canada. Interests:

Jazz and classical music, skating, dancing.

SONJA BRODERSEN, 528 Saylor Ave., Elmhurst, Ill. Age: 15. Member Epiphany Luther League. Interests: Piano, pen pals, swimming, skating.

HEIDI HAEGELE, 410 Fairview Ave., Elmhurst, Ill. Age: 14. Member Immanuel Luther League. Interests: Pen pals, animals, swimming, skating.

CAROLYN SWEIGART, 2102 Walnut St., New Castle, Ind. Interests: Swimming, dancing, eating, ice and roller skating, table tennis, interior decoration, collecting pennants and postcards.

The Tongue Is a Mirror

Your words are the clues to your character

By Betty Bagger

AS I walked into a grocery store recently, a customer was saying in loud tones, "I sure told the owner of that restaurant what I thought of those damned kykes he had as waiters!"

Shocked by the outburst, I moved to the cereals and then into the soaps to get a glimpse of the owner of this un-Christian speech. Doubly shocked by what I thought I saw, I pushed closer into the frozen foods to check myself. Yes, it was a man who had been introduced to me as an active church member who had expressed such views and in such a manner!

"SPEECH IS A MIRROR of the soul; as a man speaks, so is he." That's the way a fellow named Publilius Syrus put it back in the first century B.C.

What men say

Many men have written about the matter in various ways. Following is some advice that has come down through the ages.

(Before your meeting, pass out these quotations on separate slips of

paper so that each individual has one to read at this time.)

● A man cannot speak but he judges and reveals himself. With his will, or against his will, he draws his portrait to the eye of others by every word.—EMERSON.

● As a vessel is known by its sound, whether it be cracked or not, so men are proved by their speeches whether they be wise or foolish.—DEMOSTHENES.

● As empty vessels make the loudest sound, so they that have least wit are the greatest babblers.—PLATO.

● The tongue is but three inches long, yet it can kill a man six feet high.—JAPANESE PROVERB.

● Such as thy words are, such will thine affections be esteemed; and such as thine affections, will be thy deeds; and such as thy deeds will be thy life.—SOCRATES.

● Oh, many a shaft at random sent Finds mark the archer little meant! And many a word, at random spoken, May soothe or wound a heart that's broken.—SIR WALTER SCOTT.

- Boys flying kites haul in their white-winged birds;
You can't do that way when you're flying words.
"Careful with fire," is good advice, we know;
"Careful with words," is ten times doubly so.
Thoughts unexpressed may sometimes fall back dead;
But God himself can't kill them when they're said.—WILL CARLETON.

- He that cannot refrain from much speaking is like a city without walls; therefore if thou observest this rule in all assemblies thou shalt seldom err; restrain thy choler, hearken much, and speak little, for the tongue is the instrument of the greatest good and the greatest evil that is done in the world.—SIR WALTER RALEIGH.

- The talkative listen to no one, for they are ever speaking. And the first evil that attends those who know not how to be silent, is, that they hear nothing.—PLUTARCH.

- Great talkers are like leaky vessels; everything runs out of them.—SIMMONS.

- There are three things that ought to be considered before some things are spoken—the manner, the place, and the time.—SOUTHEY.

- No one will tell a tale of scandal, except to him who loves to hear it. Learn, then, to check and rebuke the distracting tongue, by showing that you do not listen to it but with displeasure.—JEROME.

- Ill deeds are doubled with an evil word.—SHAKESPEARE.

- Good words are worth much, and cost little.—GEORGE HERBERT.

What the Bible says

And now, let's see what the Bible has to say about the problem: (*Give one of the following references to each one present before the meeting to be read at this time.*)

Luke 6:45; I Corinthians 13:1;
Proverbs 21:23; Ephesians 4:25;

Ephesians 4:29; I Thes. 2:4; Titus 2:1, James 2:12; James 4:11; James 5:12; Proverbs 15:1, 2; Proverbs 6:16-19; Proverbs 17:4; Proverbs 18:21.

What Luther says

Let's check on Luther's explanation of the Eighth Commandment, as he writes in the *Large Catechism*:

"... this commandment forbids all sins of the tongue whereby we can injure or molest our neighbor. For to bear false witness is nothing else but a work of the tongue. Whatever therefore is done with the tongue against a fellow-man is hereby forbidden by God . . .

"Here belongs particularly the detestable vice of gossip and slander, with which the devil instigates us, and of which there is much to be said. For it is a common evil plague that every one prefers hearing evil to hearing good of his neighbor; and although we ourselves are ever so bad, we cannot suffer that any one should say anything bad about us, but every one would much rather that all the world should speak of him in terms of gold; and yet we cannot bear that only the best be said of others.

"Those are called slanderers who are not content with knowing a thing, but proceed to exercise judgment, and when they know a slight offence of another, carry it into every corner, and are gratified that they can stir up another's baseness, as swine roll themselves in the dirt and root in it with the snout.

"There are comprehended, therefore, in this commandment very many good works which please God most highly, and bring abundant good and blessing, if only the blind world and the false saints could recognize them as such. For there is nothing on or in the entire man which can do both greater and more extensive good or harm in spiritual and in temporal matters than the tongue, though it is the least and feeblest member."

What the law says

We know that the laws and freedoms governing human relations in our land are based on Christian teachings. What does the law therefore have to say about this problem?

Article I of the Amendments to the Constitution of the United States:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances."

How then, if the above is law, do we find statutes also governing our speech as:

Libel is "a malicious defamation, expressed either by printing, or by signs or pictures, or the like, tending to blacken the memory of one who is dead, or to impeach the honesty, integrity, virtue, or reputation or publish the natural defects of one who is alive, and thereby expose him to public hatred, contempt, ridicule, or financial injury.

"Slander is the defaming of a man in his reputation, or rendering him an object of ridicule, by words spoken or written; from whence an injury in character, or property, or feeling, arises or may arise to him."

What do you say?

On all problems in life, there are many avenues to good advice available. We have consulted a good many resources on this subject. But as with everything, the decision must be made by each individual. How would you answer these questions:

1. Read Matthew 10:19,20 and Acts 4:18-20. Is this applicable to life today? To your life?

2. Is your conduct during a church service a test on this?

3. Read Psalm 119:171,172. What help does this offer to the Christian?

4. Can gossip really harm, as Proverbs 18:21 says? What can a Christian do to stop a story, false or true,

that is harming an individual?

5. Could the McCarthy approach to the Communistic threat be a test case of this problem?

6. Read John 18:23. Discuss.

What shall we say?

A negative approach to life is not Christian. It is not enough for us not to tell lies, not to gossip, not to listen to a dirty story, not to be irreverent or disrespectful or selfish in our conversation, not to swear or curse.

In Luke 11:24-26 we read: "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

Therefore we, as Christians, must be positive in our approach to life: Telling the truth, though we are persecuted; stopping the hurtful gossip that is brought to us; showing in our speech our consideration for others and our love for God; and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to our associates.

Worship service

Responsive Reading—Proverbs 12: 13-25

Hymn—*PSH* 232, 279, 208

Scripture—James 3:3-18

Prayer—*PSH* No. 30, 41, 52.

Closing—And now the Lord says to us as he said to Moses, when Moses was chosen for a big job: "Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."

To the leader

The aim of this topic is to urge Luther leaguers to accept the responsibility that is theirs as Christians to set an example of their beliefs in their speech, and to witness to their associates through their conversation concerning the love of God and the saving power of Jesus Christ.

If yours is an active, interested group, at the preceding meeting assign the Biblical

references and resource books, such as, Bartlett, *Familiar Quotations*; Luther, *The Large Catechism*; and the Constitution of the U.S. Have them bring in the portions applicable to this topic, some of which have been quoted in this material. Get participation on the part of all present. Make this an answer to a real problem in every-day living.

Use the worship service as a conclusion to your program.

Book Review

CIRCUS TOYS. By Peggy Tearle.
Peoria, Ill.: Chas. A. Bennett Co.,
Inc. 60 pages. \$1.50.

Have you ever thought of creating a full cast of circus characters to make some less fortunate children happy? This book can tell you how to do just that from "A" to "Z".

Furnishing patterns for 12 different animals and dolls straight from the circus ring, this handy little manual

has *complete* instructions from the cutting out to the finishing stitches. To make your job easier, Miss Tearle has listed a detailed account of the materials you'll need. Because they are circus toys you can let your imagination turn loose on clothes, trimmings, and color.

Although written clearly and concisely, the book will be of most value to someone with foreknowledge in craft and sewing. I believe, however, that any interested league could tackle and carry through an outstanding project, using this book as a guide. If directions are followed carefully, the result can't help being charming toys with personalities all of their own.

So if you're looking for a good project, or just some down right fun, *Circus Toys* is the book for you. Claireann Dufford, Erie, Pa.

For Your Private Devotions

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KNOWING JESUS—THE MAN

Courageous, bold, he fought for eternal principles

By Charles J. Dion

One by one members of a Sunday school class taught by a friend of mine pinned on a bulletin board the pic-

tures of Jesus they liked best. Betty had brought a picture showing Jesus with a lamb in his arms. Norman proudly

tacked up a portrait of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane. Joyce had chosen a scene about Jesus and the children. Now it was Don's turn to exhibit his choice.

An unhappy look on his face, Don mumbled, "Miss Price, I don't have a picture of Jesus."

Miss Price was slightly irritated. After all, she had assigned the class an easy job. Each member was to bring the picture of Jesus that meant the most to him.

● Boys are the building blocks of a nation. The man who gives a boy a helping hand is therefore building sound foundations for the future.

Paul Martin

"Why not, Don," she asked.

"Because I couldn't find one that looked like Jesus," he said. "He was strong enough to throw money-changers out of the temple. He wasn't a sissy. But all of the pictures I saw made him look like one."

Like Betty and Norman and Joyce, many people think of Jesus as a sweet dreamer who patted little children on the heads, or carried lambs about.

Of course, Jesus was humble, kind, and gentle. But he was also bold. He fought for his beliefs with courage and manliness.

Most of us Christians look to Jesus Christ as our highest ideal. Yet we picture him so often as the "Beautiful Saviour" that we almost forget that he was also human. We set him on a towering pedestal so high that we cannot hope to follow him too closely. Some of us have given up trying.

How often have you thought about a person and wished, "I'd like to be him. That man's got everything." The number of people about whom you could say that is very, very limited. Call the

roll of the great leaders of the ages, each person you would find weakness and flaws that would make you hesitate to trade places with him and live his life, if you had the chance.

Look at some of the world's heroes: Washington, Lincoln, Shakespeare, Beethoven, Edison, Alexander Bell, Rockefeller, Jim Thorpe, Joe Louis, Babe Ruth, Martin Luther, Albert Schweitzer, St. Paul. Wouldn't you burst with pride if your name were listed among theirs. Yet every one of those persons had faults and limitations. And all of them put together have not influenced our world as much as one Galilean peasant, a carpenter's son who lived his days in a small cross-roads community. Jesus was a great man, *plus*. He had something that no other person ever had.

Let's study the list of famous leaders above to see if we can discover what made them great. What were the qualities that enable a man to stand head and shoulders above the crowd? How many of these characteristics are present in the life of Jesus?

At this point in the presentation let the group discuss the qualities they feel make a person great. List the results on the blackboard. Beside them write the qualities that will be brought out in the topic.

Here are some qualities of a hero that I believe are important:

- Humble birth.
- Early evidence of ideals and fixing of goals.
- Struggle against handicaps.
- Refusal to be side-tracked from goals or fooled by shoddy substitutes.
- Sacrificial giving of self in service to others.
- Dynamic personality, inspiring and commanding leadership.
- Keeping the common touch, never proud, aloof or arrogant.
- Courage to face enemies and opposition and overcome them.
- Willingness to die for beliefs.
- Immortality in the hearts of mankind, influence growing with the years.

tudy the portrait of Jesus painted
us in the Bible and you will find
each of these heroic marks was pres-
in his life.

Humble beginnings

Ve often glamorize the birthplace of
us Christ as a lovely, cozy shrine.
the Son of God—the greatest hu-
n being ever to walk on earth—was
n in a cold, dirty, smelly stable amid
cattle, the mice, and the cobwebs.

But Christ did not mope in self-pity
ause of his lowly birth. Nor was he
amed of Mary and Joseph—because
y were poor, working people. Lack
social standing and poverty did not
bitter him toward society. The stuff
t molds heroes thrives on these ob-
cles.

Just as Jesus grew into full manhood,
enjoyed full boyhood. He was not
reakish child prodigy! He probably
ed to play athletic games, hike into
hills near his home, go fishing, and
sle with his pals. Working with
eph in the carpenter's shop he de-
oped strong arms, calloused hands,
l tough muscles.

Building a splendid physique or hav-
g a good time, however, was not his
eatest concern. As the perfect, all-
ound man, he developed in body, mind,
otions, and spirit. As St. Luke re-
rted, Jesus grew “. . . in wisdom,
stature, in favor with man and in
vor with God.”

He liked to visit the temple to gain
nowledge of God's law. Prayer and
igious training by his mother in his
ldhood undoubtedly helped to guide
n in a concern for spiritual growth.
is soul and the souls of all people
re important to him.

*Let the group mention teen-aged
creation and activities that Jesus
ould participate in if he lived on
rth today.*

Teen-agers often feel that their youth
a handicap, that in many groups older
ople do most of the talking, decide

important issues, and run the show.
When Jesus was a very young man he
was forced to speak up and correct the
false teachings of respected leaders many
years older than he. What a difficult
task that was! But he still spoke up.

When he preached his first sermon
in his home congregation, the people
became so angry that they mobbed him.
Rushing him up to a high cliff nearby,
they tried to push him over its steep
edge. This action, however, did not
frighten Christ nor discourage him from
his purpose.

He was so well known in Nazareth
as a “home-town boy” that men and
women in his city sneered and said,
“Isn't this the son of the carpenter,
Joseph? Who does he think he is, trying
to tell us we're not serving God right?”
Others said, “Can any good thing come
out of Nazareth?”

Jesus realized that often the people
hardest to teach and to help are the
members of one's own family or church
or neighborhood. But even the handicap
of not being honored by his towns-people
did not stop him.

Not to be side-tracked

Turning mountains into gold or pro-
ducing any feat lay within the power of
Christ. His miracles of healing the sick
proved that. In fact, he could have made
Superman look like an amateur. But he
never used power to profit personally or
to enjoy things selfishly or to show off.

The devil pestered and tempted Jesus
throughout his life. He urged Christ to
enjoy pleasures like making bread from
stones, to perform amazing stunts like
jumping off the temple, and to amass
great possessions like owning the whole
world. These he promised if Christ
would only work with him. But Jesus
knew that good becomes evil when it
shuts out the best. He refused to be
detoured.

How many potential heroes dash off
to a flying start in life. Somewhere,
however, they are lured from the main
track and never finish the race. When

God offers men gold and diamonds, how can we settle for tin and glass?

Service-test of greatness

The noted statesman-theologian Kagawa said, "When I see how Jesus went about doing good, I am ashamed that I am so easily satisfied with just going about!" Jesus never seemed to think of himself and his own needs. He taught, preached, fed, healed, raised the dead, shared troubles, served and comforted others constantly. Even on the cross, Christ prayed for forgiveness for his tormentors, gave salvation to a robber, and comforted his mother and disciple.

Such service has always been the outstanding mark of greatness. The truly great are not those who fight for fame and power—like Hitler, Napoleon, and Caesar. Rather they are men who serve their brothers, like Lincoln, Schweitzer, Florence Nightingale, and Joan of Arc.

If you want to be a real hero of faith, and to tackle the toughest battle of all, forget yourself during one entire day. For just 24 hours try to think only of how you could help other people. Jesus did that every hour, every day.

Commanding appearance

To challenge men to follow him Jesus must have appeared commanding, clean, and strong of countenance. The rough fishermen who were in his company would have had little respect for a soft, mousy sissy.

Jesus was a brave man, leading in danger, quieting storms at sea when his own men were afraid. He never sought safety. Instead he led his disciples, challenging them to follow. For such a leader men would gladly give their all.

MANY HEROES have lost all the popularity and affection of their followers because they have grown vain and snobbish. Jesus, however, remained a servant of all. He noticed the poor, the crippled, the widows and orphans, the unimportant, and the sinners of the streets. The common people listened to him gladly because he always stayed close to them.

When we see an important person strut and brag or act superior, we can be sure that he is really a small person. Truly big people are humble and easy to talk with. They don't have to prove their worth. Their record speaks for itself.

Discuss here the question: Among what kind of people in your community would Jesus be working and seeking to win to his cause today?

Steady Courage Needed

Being brave in time of emergency is one kind of courage. Our highest awards are granted, for instance, to the soldier on the battlefield, or to the man who leaps into a river to save a drowning child. It is harder, however, to do the right and fight against the wrong day in and day out.

Jesus possessed this steady kind of courage. Single-handed he drove the money-changers from the temple. He lashed out at the powerful scribes and Pharisees as sinful, greedy hypocrites. No wonder they hated this daring one. No start. When his goodness and holiness showed up their evil, they said, "He bothers us. We must silence him. Crucify him!"

Jesus realized the risks he faced. It would have been far easier to keep steady and not create trouble. But he had the courage we often lack. He spoke the full truth always, even when it hurt.

Values greater than life

Most of us love life very much. We will give it up for very few things—our God, our country, our family, or perhaps a very loved friend.

A little boy, pale and frightened after giving a blood transfusion for his younger brother, said to the doctor, "How long will it be now before I die?" His attitude of sacrifice made his deed even more noble.

Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man will lay down his life for his friend." And then his own death put an exclamation mark after

t statement. He loved us enough to
for our sins with his life.
Jesus' death reminds us that there are
things more precious than life itself.
When we die for them, we have lived
it all.

THE DAY AFTER their names jump
into the headlines, some military heroes
and great athletic figures are forgotten.
The real test of a man's life, however,
is its enduring quality. What do people
think of him after he is gone?

The greatest story ever told about
the greatest life ever lived didn't end
with Christ's death on Good Friday. It
didn't end, period. Like wildfire the
good news of the gospel spread from
person to person. It turned the world
upside-down.

Today the message of Jesus Christ
continues to gain influence and vitality
and power. Critics who study his life in
an effort to tear it apart and destroy
the faith of his followers end up as con-
fessors and witnesses for him. He needs
no granite tombstone to guarantee that
he will be remembered. His sacrifices, his
wonderful deeds, his powerful teachings,
his redeeming death—these are forever
his best monument.

PROGRAM HELPS

Study the following scripture passages.
Each furnishes a clue to the character of
Jesus or to an event important in his life.
The 10 passages listed parallel the 10 quali-
ties of a hero named in the topic.

Luke 2:1-7, Luke 2:41-52, Luke 4:22-30,
Luke 4:1-13, Luke 4:38-44, Matt. 4:18-22 and
23-27, John 13:1-4 and 12-14, Matt. 21:12-
17, Matt. 27:33-37, Acts 1:1-8.

You will want to refer to these in your
presentation.

Display several portraits of Christ. An-
alyze each by group study, trying to de-
termine whether it is a strong or weak pre-
sentation of him.

Before the topic presentation, let each
leaguer draw up a list of his heroes and
heroines. Or compose a group list by writing
names on a blackboard. See how these com-
pare with the people mentioned in the topic.

WORSHIP HELPS

Hymns: "Praise Ye the Father" No. 255 *PSH*

"Jesus Calls Us" No. 204 *PSH*

Psalm 63, p. 37 *PSH*

Prayer 32, p. 28 *PSH*

Hymns: "O Master Let Me Walk with Thee"

No. 288 *PSH*

"Beautiful Saviour" No. 184 *PSH*

Closing thoughts: "If I knew a better per-
son than Christ, I would follow him. If I
knew a better program for the world than
Christ's, I would give myself to that pro-
gram. If I knew a better purpose for living
than he offers, I would serve that purpose."

"The difference between what Christ is,
and what I am, is sin!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What person do you think ranks second
to Christ as the greatest person who ever
lived? Why?

2. Do you think that radio, movie, and TV
programs are lowering our ideals and lead-
ing teen-agers to idolize the wrong heroes?
Why?

3. Are radio and TV heroes, such as the
Lone Ranger, Red Skelton and Detective Sam
Spade, a good or bad influence on us? Why?

THINGS TO DO

Sponsor an essay contest among your
leaguers entitled, for example, "What I
admire most about Christ," or "My favorite
scene in the life of Christ."

As a long-term project, let the entire
league compose a teen-ager's "Life of
Christ." Mimeograph it and distribute it to
members of the congregation.

● School teachers are considered the most useful citizens of the community, according to a nation-wide survey by Elmo Roper. Only 10 per cent voted for lawyers as the most important people in a community; 13 per cent for the merchant; 20 per cent for the mayor or some other top public official; 27 per cent for the clergy. The school teacher topped them all with a vote of 30 per cent.

—*Education Digest.*



Tenebrae

A service of worship for use in Holy Week

By William R. Seaman

TENEBRAE, pronounced ten-e-bree, means "shadows." It is one of the oldest traditional services of the Christian church for Holy Week.

In the service eight candles were placed near the altar, and one was extinguished at the end of each Psalm, until only one was left lighted. Then, during the singing of the *Benedictus*, the altar candles were extinguished. The one remaining candle was concealed while Psalm 51 was said or sung. Then, after the collect for the day, there was a time of silence, broken by a harsh voice or the clapping of hands. The remaining candle was brought back, and placed at the top of the stand, which was a signal for the worshippers to depart.

The following program, although quite different from the Service of Tenebrae, is interesting and may prove quite impressive as it relates the passion of Jesus Christ. Eight candles, one larger than the other seven, ought to be arranged on a table or altar. The larger candle is to be placed in front of the other seven. All eight candles should be lighted before the service begins.

During the service the candles are extinguished one by one, until the one single candle is left burning. After the reading of the seventh lesson a candle-bearer carries this candle out of the room. All other lights in the room ought

to be turned off at this time. A brief period of silence follows for prayer and meditation. The leader may then clasp his or her hands, or simply ask the group to rise. Together they repeat the Apostles' Creed. When they say, "And the third day . . .", the candle-bearer should come back into the room and set the lighted candle in its place. After this creed the worshippers ought to leave the room quietly.

The symbolism of the service is not difficult to understand. As the passion story unfolds, the darkness increases until, with the death of our Lord, only one light is left burning—the light of God's love. This light is carried out of the room for a little time to symbolize the three days in the tomb. But, like God's love, the light is never put out. It returns in anticipation of Easter Day.

If the group is small one reader can take more than one lesson. If possible a snuffer for the candle-bearer ought to be provided; if not, a spoon may be used. Be sure that the candles are securely fastened in their holders or in a seven-branched candelabra.

Prepare this program carefully, present it reverently, and it will be long remembered by those who are present.

The Service

LEADER: "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: And we hid as it were

faces from him. He was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."—Isaiah 53:3-6.

HYMN: "There Is a Green Hill Far away"

LORD'S PRAYER

FIRST READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The reader then reads Matthew 26:36-50.

HYMN: "In The Hour of Trial" (Stanzas 3 and 4 may be omitted)

During the singing of the hymn the candle-bearer puts out the first candle, beginning at the right.

SECOND READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his suffering before Caiaphas the high priest.

The reader then reads Matthew 26:57-68.

HYMN: "Jesus, and Shall It Ever be" (The last two stanzas may be omitted)

During the singing of the hymn the candle-bearer puts out the second candle at the right.

THIRD READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his trial before Pilate the governor.

The reader then reads John 18:28-40.

HYMN: "Saviour, Thy Dying Love"

During the singing of the hymn the candle-bearer puts out the third candle at the right.

FOURTH READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his scourging and condemnation.

The reader then reads Matthew 27:26-31.

HYMN: "In the Cross of Christ I glory"

In place of the above hymn Psalm 51

may be said responsively.

During the singing of the hymn, or the reading of the Psalm, the fourth candle is extinguished.

FIFTH READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his crucifixion and suffering on Calvary.

The reader then reads John 19:17-27.

HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

During the singing of the hymn the candle-bearer puts out the fifth candle.

SIXTH READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his death for the sins of the world.

The reader then reads Luke 23:39-49.

HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" or "Jesus, Keep Me Near The Cross"

During the singing of the hymn the candle-bearer puts out the sixth candle.

SEVENTH READER: Hear the passion of our Lord, and of his burial in the tomb.

The reader then reads John 19:31-42.

HYMN: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (The first stanza of the hymn may be used)

During the singing of the hymn the candle-bearer puts out the seventh candle.

The above hymn may be omitted. In that case the candle-bearer extinguishes the seventh candle at the conclusion of the lesson.

After the candle-bearer has extinguished the seventh candle all the lights in the room shall be turned off. Then the candle-bearer takes the eighth candle, still burning, and carries it out of the room.

SILENCE: *A brief period for prayer and meditation shall follow.*

The leader may then clap his hands twice, or use another signal for the group to rise.

THE CREED: *The Apostles' Creed shall then be said. At the words, "And the third day . . .", the candle-bearer shall re-enter the room and place his candle in its place.*

This concludes the service. Worshipers ought to leave the room quietly with the one candle still burning.

Their hopes smashed, two utterly dejected men met a third on a dusty road. What happened then changed the world.

THE EMMAUS STORY

By Robert E. Heffner

CLEOPAS and his friend trudged dejectedly along the dusty road to Emmaus. Behind them lay Jerusalem, the scene of Jesus' trial and crucifixion only a few days before. Those terrible happenings there still vividly seared their minds, and they could talk of little else.

They had not traveled far when they met Jesus himself and invited him to join them. Strangely enough, they did not recognize him. And when he asked them what they had been discussing, Cleopas exclaimed in amazement, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

Jesus asked, "What things?"

So Cleopas and his friend described the last events in the Saviour's life. As the men talked they revealed that with the death of Jesus they had lost all hope for the future of the Jewish nation and even for themselves. This Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified was to have been a prophet chosen by God to become a great political leader among the Jews. They believed he would organize a powerful army and march against the Roman soldiers who were occupying their country. Then they could establish

a great Israelite nation again as it had existed under King David and King Solomon.

Instead the people, backed by the high priests and rulers, had put Jesus to death. Now the hopes of these two men were smashed. The Jewish people would have to endure Roman domination! Foreigners would still suppress and rule them and force them to pay high taxes. How were the Jews ever going to survive in the difficult days ahead? No wonder the two men were utterly depressed.

Finally the three travelers arrived at an inn in Emmaus. Since it was time

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The meeting of Jesus and two strangers on the road to Emmaus that happened on the first Easter evening will be the theme of this program. Its purpose is to bring prospective members into your Lutheran League. Since the Emmaus story tells of how Jesus met two men, ate with them, and introduced them to the Christian life, the program will be effective for your guests.

eat, Cleopas and his friend urged us to have dinner with them. While they were eating together, the men suddenly realized that they were talking about Jesus Christ, this prophet from God whom they thought was dead. How shocked they were. Immediately they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell Jesus' disciples about their experience.

If you think about the Emmaus story you will find similarities between the experiences of Cleopas and his friend on the first Easter evening and conditions today.

Some have not heard

It is difficult to believe that there could be people in America today who have not heard about the resurrection of our Lord. Certainly everyone must know about Easter. But have they heard the gospel message of eternal life bringing fresh meaning to the problems and difficulties of 1954? What about those who were not in church or Sunday school today? Your church probably was packed and extra chairs set up to care for the overflow crowd. Some people, however, in your community did not attend church.

Count the number of churches in your community and divide that number into the total population of the area. The result will be the number of people who could come to your church today and every Sunday.

Just as Cleopas and his friend had not heard about the resurrection, not every one knows or cares to learn about Christ. What can be done about this? Well, let's take our cue from Jesus. Do you remember that he talked with these men. For us, that action means invitation. Simply ask newcomers in your neighborhood, or friends, or school-mates to the services of your church or Sunday school or Luther League. If they have never been invited perhaps your invitation will spur them to come. Or at least it will start them thinking about Jesus Christ and their responsibilities to him. Celebrating the Emmaus

supper in your league is one method of bringing teen-agers into your church and Luther League fellowship so that they may hear about Christ.

The wrong reason

The biggest mistake that the Emmaus-bound men made was that they believed in Christ and followed him for the wrong reason. Do you remember that they told Jesus they had expected Christ to redeem Israel? For this reason the crucifixion upset them deeply. They wanted Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom with the Jewish nation as its powerful ruler. They never understood that Jesus preached about a kingdom that is in men's hearts—a kingdom of the spirit. To them a kingdom meant the mustering of a great army and the conquering of all nations in the world with swords. So when Jesus spoke about the coming of God's kingdom they did not realize that he described a much deeper empire built for eternity.

The kingdom of the spirit, for which Jesus died, dug deep into the hearts and souls of men. It changed them from selfish, greedy lives to lives that turned to God for fellowship. Jesus taught that by conquering the sinfulness in our lives, all evil forces in the world would be overcome. This sort of kingdom the two men traveling to Emmaus had not understood.

There are many people like them today. Some people think that if you follow Christ and are called a Christian you will never get sick, not have bad luck, and will become richer and richer every day. Certainly Jesus does not teach us that. Christ wants to be the center of one's life. He is able to give meaning to it, purpose to your future and companionship in daily problems. St. Paul says, "With Christ we are more than conquerors."

Others in the church today feel that the church should grow wealthy and that it should erect larger and more beautiful buildings. So they strive to produce an earthly church. Rather Jesus

says, "Follow me," and "Go and preach the gospel to every living creature." So our church programs and organizations like the Luther League should point men toward Jesus Christ as the Lord and Giver of Life. Everything that the church does, whether raising money or planning social fellowship, should help more people to hear about Christianity and give their lives to Christ.

Don't follow Jesus to have only a successful life measured by worldly standards. Don't think, for instance, that the gospel will build your church or Luther League into huge numbers. Rather Christ wants to touch the hearts of men and change their lives. Believe in Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and you will be molding Christ-like people in your church and community.

Meeting Jesus together

The other important thing that happened to Cleopas and his friend was that by inviting this stranger to eat with them, they met Jesus. Perhaps they would never have known they were in the company of the risen Lord if they hadn't asked him to supper.

Have you ever brought someone into the church—someone who has never belonged to a church or Luther League. But since you invited them they have attended Sunday school or league regularly. This is called evangelism.

Evangelism means extending the Kingdom of God among those who have not had a chance to hear about Jesus Christ. You will find Jesus in the work of evangelism. You will see him become a part of the life of another person and change him. In so doing you will also come to a new understanding of Christ in your own life.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

Your Easter meeting could be a box supper. Let each leaguer invite one or more friends for the program. Each leaguer would provide the food for his guest. Tables should be arranged so that all would be seated together.

MEETING PLAN

- Get-acquainted games
- Easter hymn (while leaguers are seated at the tables)
- Scripture: Luke 24:13-37
- Prayer
- Box supper
- Group singing of Easter carols
- Topic presentation
- Social fellowship with games

PROCEDURE

The reading of the scripture before the box supper could be dramatized by three or four leaguers. Costumes would add realism. Use the Bible story as your script.

The topic presentation could be most effectively done by the leader and three other leaguers. The leader could introduce the topic and the gospel story, and each leaguer present one of the three sub-topics in the article.

A 16mm sound motion picture entitled "The Emmaus Story" is available for rental. You might substitute this for the presentation. As leader, however, you should attempt to inspire the leaguers by tying in the Emmaus story with their lives.

GET-ACQUAINTED GAME

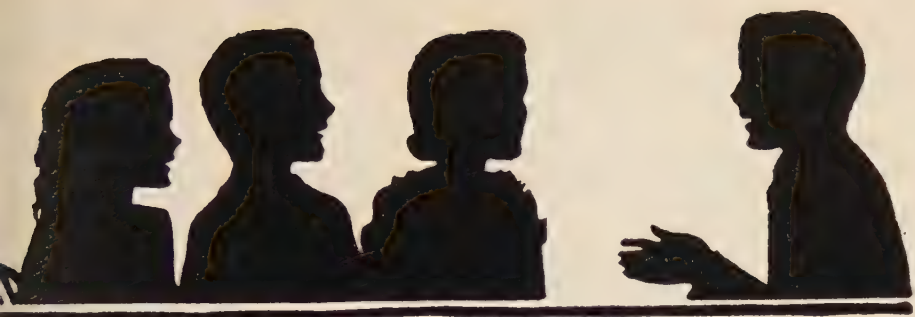
HUMAN BINGO: Give a sheet of paper ruled into squares such as a bingo card, to each person as he arrives. Each player must then get the signatures of other players in the squares on his paper. Object is to fill each square with a different name.

Each guest now signs a small slip of paper and drops it into a box. From this box the leader draws one slip of paper at a time and calls out the name. Each person who has the name called written on his sheet crosses out the square. When a player has crossed out all squares on his paper, he calls out, "Bingo". Award a prize to the winner.

SOCIAL GAMES

BLIND MAN'S TAG: One person is blindfolded. He attempts to catch another person. Object is to try to dodge from the blindfolded person and keep him confused. This game works best when only one small room or section of a large room is allowed for hiding.

EASTER PARADE: Divide the group into pairs, preferably a boy and a girl in each couple. The boy is given either crepe-paper or newspaper and pins. He must design a hat on his partner's (or model's) head in a limited amount of time. Each model then parades her hat before the group. A prize is awarded to the most original design.



Lazy leagues beware - this topic is not for you

SPRINGBOARD TO ACTION

Intermediate Day — April 25

By Doris J. Smith

WHETHER it's a struggle to line up six members for next Sunday's meeting, or intermediates swarm to your topics and socials, your organization wrestles with a common problem: Planning an interesting program that will meet the needs of Christian teen-agers and serve the church and community. This topic is designed so that you can look squarely at the problem and then select ways of improving your own league.

Ask three or four adult members of your congregation to take part in a round-table discussion, moderated by your league counselor or other interested adult. These guest speakers may include the pastor, one or two people—members

of the church organizations—who are well acquainted with the youth program in your church, a church councilman, or a member of your parish who is active in community affairs. Invite each of them to make positive suggestions of ways in which your Luther League may better serve the youth of your congregation and community.

It will be helpful if all of your guest speakers can get together with your program planning committee several days before the meeting. They can then go over the purpose of the round-table and discuss ideas that could be presented. They will also probably want to know more about your league program.

Here are some areas that might be

discussed by your round-table members. Of course, you will want to add or subtract ideas, selecting those that apply to your league.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING—Ways in which the league can encourage its members to use their abilities for the church, for instance by assisting in vacation church school, youth choir, working in the church office, putting out the parish paper.

The roles that teen-agers can fill in the church government. These might include serving on the parish education committee, youth committee, and so forth.

COOPERATION—Steps for enlisting the cooperation of adult members of the congregation in the youth program.

Long-range programs of the church in which the league may participate, such as evangelism, stewardship.

Encouraging youth to attend church and Sunday school.

COMMUNITY ACTION—Particular problems of your immediate neighborhood in which the league can take action, such as lack of recreation facilities, vandalism.

Attitudes and activities that the league can undertake to ease tensions in the community. For instance, the league at Zion Church, Harrisburg, Pa., aroused the interest of all members of the church in a Negro orphan's home. Last summer the young people conducted classes in Christian education at the home. As a result of their assistance, members of the church donated needed furniture and other items.

Community projects in which the league may cooperate. A group in a mid-western city, for example, participated in its town's safety campaign.

CONGREGATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM—working toward goals of the parish youth program, particularly in the league's study program.

After the guests present their ideas, you will want to let the leaguers ask

questions. They will probably want bring up problems hindering the league that the guests may help to solve.

PROGRAM CHECK

The questions that follow concern your own league's activities. They are not meant to rate your group. Instead, each one suggests a tool with which good league programs are built. They're like the hammer, nails, saw and lumber that you need to build a house. They will help you understand what a well-balanced program includes.

Where you find your league falling down in some important part, work to correct the situation.

Don't be down-at-the-mouth, however, if you find that a lot of improvements seem to be called for. Why not tackle a few at a time—and then two months from now check back to see how your league is progressing.

ORGANIZATION

A working crew of leaguers, officers, advisers, and pastor who want to lead a youth program geared to the needs of the church and community, and to the interests of the intermediates.

1. Do your officers, advisers, and pastor meet periodically to set goals, to carefully look over the work that is being done, and to guide the league program?

2. Do the officers share the responsibility for carrying out the entire program with all members of the group?

3. Do you plan regular business sessions, short and to-the-point for the group?

4. Does your league cooperate with other youth groups and organizations that serve youth in your congregation?

5. Do you publicize your program in every way possible?

6. Does your league plan exchange meetings with intermediate groups in the vicinity?

EVANGELISM

Being aware that other intermediates who do not belong to your league, can

benefit from your church and your youth group.

1. Has your league visited intermediates (unchurched and un-leagued) in the last month?

2. Do you have a year-around program of visitation?

3. Do you cooperate with the evangelism program of your church?

4. Do you really try to welcome visitors? And do you immediately make new members a part of the league?

5. Do you visit teen-agers new to the community?

STUDY PROGRAM

Topics adapted to the needs and size of your league.

1. Do you have a program planning committee?

2. Are topic leaders scheduled two months in advance?

3. Do you hold a program planning meeting for topic leaders appointed for the next month?

4. Do you plan special programs for Youth Sunday, Missionary Day, and Christian Vocation Day?

5. Did each of your last three leaders use a different type of topic presentation?

6. Do you encourage each leaguer to participate in a topic presentation according to his ability?

WORSHIP

1. Do your leaguers have a reverent attitude during the service?

2. Do you plan your worship service in advance, and assign parts beforehand?

3. Do you encourage all members to have part in a service?

4. Do you vary your worship services—trying to make each one a new experience?

SERVICE PROJECTS

Activities through which the leaguers can freely give their talents to benefit others.

1. Does your league plan and carry out a service project at least monthly?

2. Does it regularly do a service for your church?

3. Do you map out service activities for the community?

4. Are your leaguers encouraged individually to put their abilities to work in the church?

5. Do you cooperate with projects of the church?

RECREATION

Letting Christian fellowship take a rightful place in a balanced youth program.

1. Do you plan different recreational activities?

2. Do you plan some recreational activities so that all leaguers may share a new experience together? (Such as hikes and visits to places of historic interest.)

3. Do you plan parties with a service purpose occasionally?

4. Does your recreation include Christian fellowship for all members of the league?

This program check may be discussed by the entire league, if you desire. Encourage all leaguers to share the ideas that they have for improving your organization.

WORSHIP

Call to worship: Incline my heart to thy testimonies, and not to gain! Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; and give me life in thy ways.

Hymn: "Fight the Good Fight" 204
CYH; 209 *PSH*

Scripture: II Timothy 2:20-22

Prayer: O living Christ, make us conscious now of thy healing nearness. Touch our eyes that we may see thee; open our ears that we may hear thy voice; enter our hearts that we may know thy love. Overshadow our souls and bodies with thy presence that we may partake of thy strength, thy love, and thy healing life. Help us to find in life's common implements and occasions our opportunity to live unto thee and to accomplish the work which thou hast given us to do, who art our Lord and God. Amen.

Hymn: "Teach Me My God and King" 217 *CYH*

MANAGERS FOR GOD

By Raymond Tiemeyer

A STORY of brutal selfishness is in the 12th chapter of Mark. "A man planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a pit for the wine press, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, to get from them some of the fruits of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him, and sent him away empty handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they wounded him in the head, and treated him shamefully. And he sent another, and him they killed; and so with many others, some they beat and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son; finally he sent him to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' And they took him and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants, and give the vineyard to others."

Have you ever thought about God's vineyard? Step with me into a rocket ship which will travel at the rate of speed at which light travels, 186,000 miles per second. The distance we could travel while getting the ship "warmed up" would be equal to going seven times around the world in a second. Pointing our ship out into space we will pass the moon after one and a half seconds. We'll be at the sun in eight minutes.

Now you will probably say it would be nice if we had a ship that would go that fast for we could travel all over the universe. But it wouldn't be that easy. How long would it take to reach the nearest star? It would take four years. The earth is located in a group of stars called a galaxy. To travel from the bottom of our galaxy to the top would take 3,000 years and from one end to the other 30,000 years. And that is just our little galaxy. There are many other galaxies the farthest of those we can see being millions of years away at the speed of light.

That is God's vineyard. He created it to be so systematic and orderly that astronomers tell us, one little motion affects the entire universe. Because of the balance of gravitational force, a slight motion, such as raising your arm, moves every star in the universe. The movement is very, very small. Nevertheless the stars are moved.

Promoted to manager

Think of the greatness of God's creation and then think of how many men sit back in their chairs quite content with themselves because they own 200 acres. Not only is their 200 acres small in comparison to the magnitude of the universe but just as small has been their object in life—to labor all their years just to sit back and say, "I own 200 acres." In ignoring the owner of the universe and his purposes, they have foolishly mistaken the creation as their own.

The tenants in God's vineyard are very strange creatures. We are assembled



Poultry raising, farming and dairy husbandry rank highest on Delbert Eckhart's Christian career list.

from dust and powered with God's own breath of life. We were promoted to the office of manager right from the start, for we are God's favorite children. "What is man," sang the old Jewish choir, "that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea."

But the new managers used their fine minds to decide that they weren't just the foremen—they owned the place.

Suppose that a man buys a small farm. Eventually he intends for his 12 year old son to help him farm it on a partnership basis. Then as the boy becomes older the man will buy more land and more implements. They start farming. But a revolting development takes place. The boy decides that he can run this farm by himself. Not only that, but he decides the farm belongs to him. If the boy tries to run it by himself how far would he get? Certainly the father isn't going to be able to accomplish his plans for expansion.

We humans are always trying to lose sight of the owner of our lives. By doing this we lose the possibility of working with God in his plans for further creative possibilities.

Our purpose in life should be that of creatively working with God's creation and not of keeping a selfish, boastful, pride of possession.

Not mine, but God's

After a great performance, a person asked the famous violinist Fritz Kreisler, why he didn't build a nice home and live more luxuriously. Kreisler, placing his violin in the case said, "When I was a child I could play well. It was very easy for me to pick up a violin and start playing a tune without practice." He closed the case and continued, "I know that I did not merit that talent. God gave it to me to use. It was given of God, I did not earn it. When the people were applauding out there tonight they were applauding for God's gift and not for me. It is easy for me to claim the reward of that talent as my own. But it isn't my own. It is God's and merely entrusted to me. If I were to use it on myself by building a mansion or living more abundantly than I do in my apartment, that mansion would stand as a wall between me and the poor."

How does one manage the vineyard properly? By living with a radiant life,

always serving, and especially by letting our work, our voice, and our income spread the gospel.

The successful manager for God is not the man who has earned all the possessions he might desire, but the man who has lost his life in service to his Lord. That service may be found in the life of a janitor, a clerk, as a minister, a missionary, or a student.

To the leader

METHOD SUGGESTIONS

The person giving the presentation may be seated at a desk. For a setting, the desk might support a globe with stick men (made of pipe cleaners) in various positions taped to the globe.

Several members of the group who have chosen their life work might be called on to tell why they have chosen their particular field.

The leader may select the illustrations from the topic and after giving them, make the application in his own words.

WORSHIP

It is preferable that Christian Vocation Day bulletins be ordered (free) from the Luther League of America, 1228 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa. The bulletins contain a worship service for the day.

If these are not ordered, however, the following may be used:

Hymn—"The Son of God Goes Forth to War"

Scripture—The lights are turned out. Two flashlights are used. One is focused on the globe mentioned above and the other used to read Psalm 8. An appropriate poem might also be read in the same setting.

Prayer 27, p. 139 *Common Service Book*

Offering

Hymn—"Jesus Master Whose I Am"

QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Moses did right when he left sheep herding and went to lead the Hebrews, even though he couldn't make speeches?

2. Is ownership "Nine points of God's law?"

3. Why did Christ die for us?

4. Do we serve God because that is the best or because we love him?

5. List ways that a grocer can serve God. An engineer, a janitor, a missionary.

6. If God made the world over again do you think he would make a man to place in charge of it?

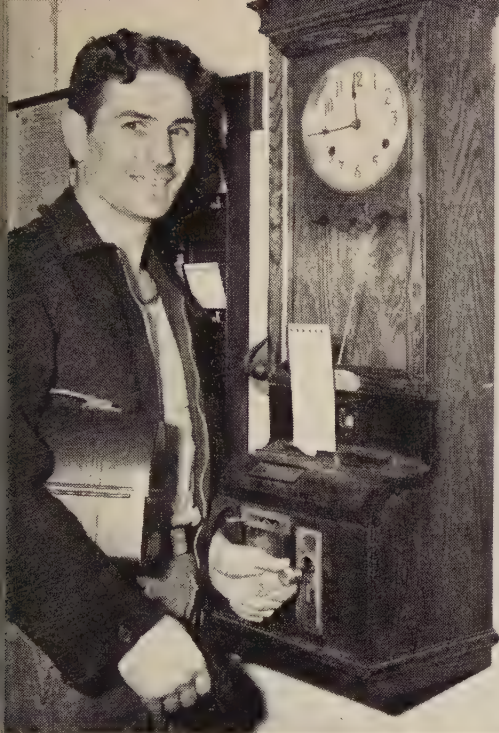
THINGS TO DO

Take over the raking of the church lawn for spring and fall.

Plant some colorful flowers in the rear of the church in places that might ordinarily be trashy.

Offer to assist in the vacation church school.

Service Bulletins
for use on
Christian Vocation
Day
are available free from
The Luther League of America
1228 Spruce Street • Philadelphia 7, Pa.



Series on
Heroes of a
Good Community

Hunt for God's Men

By Vivian Barker

EVERYONE likes heroes. In times of war, especially, we are deluged with stories about soldiers who have been courageous under fire. Their pictures appear in newspapers. Throngs of people greet them when they return home. They describe their experiences on radio and TV. They are photographed for newsreels. They receive medals and awards.

Military heroes often deserve our praise. These, however, are not the people to be studied in our topic.

We plan to discover the "unsung"

heroes in your community. They are the Christian men and women in all of the various jobs that play a part in building a good town. Most of us, in fact, would never consider them outstanding. Their names rarely ever make the front page of a newspaper. But they are so important to us that the next three program sessions will be devoted to them.

These programs are so related to one another that you should plan to use all three. The heroes you discover won't get their just rewards if you omit any session.

In order for the sessions to run smoothly, you will want to study the

entire unit ahead of time. There is lots of work to be done. Are you ready? Then let's get started.

Directions to leader

THE LEADER should introduce this unit of three sessions, perhaps by using the introductory remarks above. The leaguers will want to help plan the second and third sessions.

You will need first a list of occupations that make up community life. It would be fun to let your league play "What's My Line?" The leader, acting as master of ceremonies, should assign different vocations (such as fireman, doctor, carpenter) to four or five young people. The remaining leaguers will compose the panel and take turns asking questions to find out the vocations represented by each of the appointed leaguers.

The person being questioned should answer either "Yes" or "No". If the panel does not discover his vocation within 20 questions (fewer, if you are pressed for time) the person should then identify himself. After each occupation has been identified, leaguers should suggest other vocations. Have someone list them on a blackboard.

Now your program becomes a planning conference for the following sessions. The purpose of the second session is to find out how persons in different vocations listed serve their community and at the same time serve God as witnesses of the Christian faith. Two methods are suggested. Leaguers should decide which they like better.

Research and report

Under this plan individual leaguers, or teams of two or three young people each, during the week interview Christian men and women who work in some of the occupations listed. Choose people whom you know, considering members of your own church first.

The best procedure would be for one leaguer to make an appointment with the person whom his group has selected. He should explain the purpose of their

intended visit and arrange a convenient time. This step will give your choice time to think about the subject.

Suggestions on interviewing and reporting are given in the material for the next session.

The information gained from your interview is to be reported to the league at your next meeting. Reports may be presented in several ways. In the next session various methods are suggested. Look ahead now and decide on the manner in which you will make your presentation.

On-the-spot interviews

Instead of talking with people at their places of business, however, your league might decide to interview them at your next meeting. If you follow this procedure, let each person speak briefly and answer the questions of your group. Be sure to let your guests know the kind of program you plan to conduct. It would be helpful also to tell them some of the questions that they will be expected to answer.

Program outline

Quiet music

Hymn: "Behold Us, Lord." 313 *PSH*, 297
CYH

Scripture: Exodus 3:1, Amos 7:14, Mark 1:16, Mark 6:3, Acts 18:1-3, Luke 5:27-28. (Assign the verses to different leaguers before the program begins. Passages should be read slowly and clearly.)

Offering (quiet music)

Introduction of unit by leader

What's My Line?

Planning session

Closing thought to be read by a leaguer:

My Master was a worker, with daily work to do,

And he who would be like him, must be a worker too.

Then welcome honest labor, and honest labor's fare.

For where there is a worker, the Master's man is there.

Hymn: "Teach me, My God and King" 217
CYH

Luther League benediction.

They Punch God's Time Clock

It takes courage to prove
you are a Christian
in your job

by Vivian Barker

At your last meeting you decided on one of two plans to get information necessary for this program. Here are suggestions for carrying out either plan. Perhaps you have thought of others.

First be sure to call on the persons whom you are to interview at the appointed time. Don't be late. Working people are busy people. Introduce all of the leaguers on your team to the person. And when you leave thank him for his interest and helpfulness.

Questions to ask

You will want to get answers to the following questions. Of course, you can think of many others to ask. Just be careful to make them appropriate to your report and not too personal.

1. Why did you choose your vocation?
2. Does being a Christian make you a better worker? Why?
3. Does being a Christian make your work easier in any way? How?

4. In what ways can you witness for Christ on the job?

5. What are some ways of showing others that you are Christian without plainly stating so?

6. Can you give any specific instance of having an opportunity to exhibit Christian character?

7. Is it difficult to be a Christian on the job? Can you tell us of any personal experiences in this connection?

Presenting the reports

Vary the presentation of the reports of the interviews so that your program is interesting. One group, for instance, might dramatize their interview. Let one leaguer take the part of the person interviewed and answer the questions of the group.

Another group might like to pantomime the occupation of the person they talked with and let the league guess what it is. Then an oral report could be given.

The answers a team received to questions 5, 6, and 7 would probably be excellent material for a skit. A playlet, for example, could be built around situations like the following without too much preparation or practice.

Mr. White refused to enter a Sunday golf tournament with the men in his office because he teaches a class of juniors in church school.

Mr. Martin, the corner grocer, gave a basket of food to a poor family on Christmas Eve. In the basket he placed an invitation to the candlelight service at his church.

Procedure for a panel

The persons who have been invited to your league meeting should be welcomed cordially and introduced to each other before the program begins. Do your best to make them feel at ease. If different leaguers have invited the various people, perhaps each one would like to present his guest, giving his name, church affiliation if he attends another church, and his vocation.

A panel is always interesting. Seat all the guests around a table or simply in a semi-circle at the front of the room. Assign the same questions given under the research-report activity to various leaguers. Choose one leaguer or your counsellor to be moderator. He asks for the questions from the leaguers and gives each guest an opportunity to answer, if he wishes. If time permits encourage other leaguers to ask questions that have not been assigned.

WORSHIP

An effective worship center for this and the next program could be made simply by placing a cross in the center of a table and arranging around its base articles that would suggest some of the vocations you are studying. These might be a policeman's badge, a hammer, a sign suggesting a

grocery store, a law book, and a nurse's cap. This arrangement would symbolize the dedication of our vocations to Christ.

Opening Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, we praise thee for giving us the name Christian. Direct our thoughts during this program that we may learn more clearly how we may honour that name in everything we do. Amen.

Presentation of reports or panel

Closing worship thought: (Colossians 3:17) "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Hymn: "How Blessed from the Bonds of Sin," 287 PSH, 235 CYH

Scripture: Psalm 127:1 and Matthew 5:13-16

Prayer: Holy Lord Jesus, who in thy great and loving purpose dost depend upon us to be the messengers of thy salvation, truth, and grace: so possess our hearts and minds and inspire our speech and acts, that wherever we are, whatever we do, we may so work and live, that all about us may see and know thee and desire to be thine: through thy mercy, O our God. Amen.

Hymn: "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord," "Go" 335 PSH, 301 CYH

Closing thought:

Jesus, thou divine Companion, by thy lowly human birth
Thou hast come to join the workers, burden bearers of the earth.
Thou, the Carpenter of Nazareth, toiling for thy daily food,
By thy patience and thy courage, thou hast taught us toil is good.

They who tread the path of labor follow where thy feet have trod;
They who work without complaining do the holy will of God.
Thou, the Peace that passeth knowledge, dwellest in the daily strife;
Thou, the Bread of heaven, art broken in the sacrament of life.

Every task, however simple, sets the soul that does it free;
Every deed of love and kindness done to man is done to thee.
Jesus, thou divine Companion, help us all to work our best;
Bless us in our daily labor, lead us to our sabbath rest.



*Christian businessmen deserve more than
"Thank You." They merit our trade.*

Salute for a Christian Worker

By Vivian Barker

Thou that hast given so much to
me,
Give one thing more—a grateful
heart.

GEORGE HERBERT

Each of us can think of one time or another when mother, dad, or a teacher has praised us for a job well done. Or we have been thanked graciously for a favor. Such action made us feel good, didn't it? And the next time we did something we tried even harder because we wanted to please again.

That's human nature. Everyone likes to be recognized when he has done

something worthwhile. Of course, we should not get discouraged and quit if nobody says, "Thank you," or, "That's good!" We aren't working for the praise of men. It does, however, help make us more eager to keep on doing good work.

Sometimes we become so accustomed to good things that we just take them for granted. We need to stop and think of what our lives and our community would be without them. Then we grow more thankful.

Our last program presented to us men and women who work day after day as Christians on their jobs. We found

out that because of them our community is a better place in which to live. It isn't always easy for them to be Christians on their job. Since we are Christians, too, don't you think it would be fitting for us to show them our appreciation for what they do?

Thank you

What are some of the ways to say, "Thank you," to Christian workers? What about shopping at Mr. Christian's store, calling Dr. Church-goer when you are sick, and having Mrs. Faithful make your new dress? You could also recommend them to others by saying something like this: "Why don't you let Mr. Honest install your new television set? You can always depend on him to do good work. He's president of the Brotherhood at my church."

These are ways of showing appreciation by our actions. Can you think of others?

Have you noticed that we have not mentioned one very important way of saying, "Thank you?" It's the one we probably overlook most often. The courtesy of saying simply and openly, "Thank you, Mr. Christian, for being what you are—a Christian worker."

Let's not only talk about how we may show our gratitude. Let's do something about it. We can write notes of appreciation here and now to those who let us visit them and ask questions, or who visited us and took part in our program. Let's not only thank them for helping out on our program, but, more important than that, for being the kind of persons whom we wanted on our program.



SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LEADER

Because leaguers may want to write the notes on personal note paper and will need fountain pens, this activity will have to be announced at the previous program. Be sure to have extra stationery on hand.

It may also be helpful to let the group cooperate in writing a model note on the blackboard before they attempt to compose individual notes. This would give them an idea of the form to follow and encourage those who might have difficulty in expressing their thoughts.

Worship guide

Arrange the same worship center used during the last program.

Quiet music (Several leaguers might hum a hymn as the pianist plays.)

Responsive reading: Psalm 1

Gloria Patri

Hymn: "I Was Made a Christian" 126 PSH
144 CYH

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

Offering

Discussion of ways to express appreciation

Write notes

Sentence prayers, expressing thanks to God for the lives of men and women who serve Christ daily in their jobs, and asking for guidance that we may do the same.

Hymn: "Take My Life" 278 PSH, 249 CYH

Luther League benediction

BOOK REVIEW

THE CHURCH WE CANNOT SEE. By Nelle Morton. Friendship Press, New York. 114 pp. Cloth, \$2.00; Paper, \$1.25.

Intermediates who are soon to become confirmed members of the Church will especially like this book that tells of the Church as it exists and works in many different countries. The best part is that the book is a collection of stories about young people around the world.

There are four sections: "The Church Is Everywhere," "The Church Is People," "The Church Is Work and Worship," and "The Church Is Wherever You Are." Here we see the real Church that is so much more than a building or meetings or a service!

Appealing illustrations make this an attractive book to be prized by junior high leaguers.

A "Guide" has been prepared for the use of leaders who wish to use this book as the basis for program studies. It is also written by Nelle Morton, and sells for 50 cents.

M. H. S.

Bible Baseball

*You can clout a home run in this game
if you know your Bible*

PREPARE four sets of questions. One set should be easy for singles, the next a little harder for doubles, a third more difficult for triples, and the last the most difficult of all for home runs.

Divide your group into two teams. Then place four chairs in the front of the room. The first chair is designated as the batter's seat; the second as first base; then the third as second base; and the fourth as third base.

The team at bat sends a player to the batter's seat. The player states whether he wishes a single, double, triple, or home run question. If he misses the question, he scores an out for his team and takes his place in his team's "dugout" at the end of the row.

If, however, he answers the question correctly he moves to the chair that has the same designation as the

question. For instance, if he selects a single and gives the right answer, he moves to the next chair, which is first base. If he answers a double question correctly, he moves over two seats to second base; a triple, he advances three seats to third base. When a player answers a home run question correctly, he scores a run for his team and takes his place at the end of his team's row in the dugout.

One team continues to answer questions until it has earned three outs (three questions missed). Then the other side goes to bat.

Keep the same number of vacant chairs between players at all times. For instance, a triple would send a man on first base home for a run.

Play any number of innings you desire. The team that wins is the one with the most runs scored.

Singles

1. Name Esau's twin brother. (Jacob)
2. Name the river where Jesus was baptized. (Jordan)
3. Who wrote the Epistle to the Romans? (Paul)
4. In what city was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
5. Name the four Gospels. (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
6. What was Jesus' first miracle? (Changing water into wine)
7. Who led the Children of Israel from Egypt into the wilderness? (Moses)
8. Name two temptations of Jesus. (Turning stones into bread, throwing himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, owning all kingdoms of the world if he would worship the devil)
9. How many disciples were there? (12)
10. What was Matthew's occupation? (Tax collector)
11. Say the first two sentences in the First Commandment. (I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me)
12. How many books in the Old Testament? (39)
13. How many books in the New Testament? (27)
14. Who owned a coat of many colors? (Joseph)
15. To what country did Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to escape his being destroyed by Herod, the king? (Egypt)
16. From what did Samson get his strength? (His hair)
17. Who killed Goliath? (David)
18. Who was imprisoned in a lion's den? (Daniel)
19. Who was the "fore-runner" of Jesus? (John the Baptist)
20. Name the first two children of Adam and Eve. (Cain and Abel)
21. Who was the "doubting" disciple? (Thomas)
22. What was Paul's name before he became a follower of Christ? (Saul)

23. Name the disciple who betrayed Jesus. (Judas Iscariot)
24. Name the last book of the Old Testament. (Malachi)
25. Name the Old Testament king who asked God for wisdom? (Solomon)
26. Give the number of missionary journeys Paul undertook. (Three)
27. Name the last book of the New Testament. (Revelation)
28. Who was swallowed by a whale? (Jonah)
29. Name the first martyr. (Stephen)
30. What disciple denied knowing Jesus? (Peter)
31. Who built an arc? (Noah)
32. Name the baby found in the bullrushes. (Moses)
33. Name Jesus' boyhood town. (Nazareth)
34. In what garden did Jesus pray before his betrayal? (Gethsemane)
35. What was Peter's occupation? (fishing)
36. Name the food with which Jesus fed 5,000 people. (Five loaves and two fishes)
37. Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist)
38. Who committed the first murder? (Cain)

Doubles

1. Where did Moses receive the Ten Commandments? (Mount Sinai)
2. Name a pair of sisters who were hospitable to Jesus. (Mary and Martha)
3. Give Luke's occupation. (Physician)
4. Name David's loyal friend, a son of Saul. (Jonathan)
5. Who turned into a pillar of salt? (Lot's wife)
6. What man was afflicted with boils? (Job)
7. Who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? (Philip)
8. What man caused Jericho's walls to fall? (Joshua)
9. Give the number of psalms. (150)

10. What was Paul's home town. (Tarsus)
11. Name the sea that the Children of Israel crossed miraculously. (Red Sea)
12. Who demanded the head of John the Baptist on a platter from Herod? (Salome, Herodias' daughter)
13. What structure did Solomon build. (The temple in Jerusalem)
14. Who was the daughter-in-law of Naomi? (Ruth)
15. Who was ready to sacrifice his son at God's command? (Abraham)
16. Name the sister of Moses. (Miriam)
17. For how much was Jesus betrayed. (30 pieces of silver)
18. Where was Paul going when he was struck off his horse and blinded? (Damascus)
19. Before what Roman governor was Jesus tried? (Pontius Pilate)
20. To what Old Testament man did God send a rainbow as a sign? (Noah)

Triples

1. Who chose an army by watching soldiers drink from a stream? (Gideon)
2. With what did God feed the Children of Israel in the wilderness? (Manna)
3. What disciple did Jesus, at his crucifixion, direct to care for his mother? (John)
4. Name the oldest man in the Bible. (Methuselah)
5. Give the number of the tribes of Israel. (12)
6. What disciples went with Jesus to the Mount of Transfiguration? (Peter, James, and John)
7. What man climbed a tree to see Jesus? (Zaccheus)
8. Who shot arrows into the air as a signal to David? (Jonathan)
9. How many years did the Children of Israel wander in the wilderness? (40)
10. What woman was known as a seller of purple? (Lydia)

11. What equipment in the temple was torn in two at the crucifixion? (Veil)

12. Name the city wall that Nehemiah rebuilt. (Jerusalem)

13. What Jewish queen saved her people from complete destruction? (Esther)

Home Runs

1. What man of Bethany did Jesus raise from the dead? (Lazarus)

2. Who was the mother of Solomon (Bathsheba)

3. Name the shortest verse in the Bible. (Jesus wept.)

4. Who presented the infant Jesus at the temple? (Simeon)

5. Where were the followers of Christ first called Christians? (Antioch)

6. Name two wicked cities God destroyed. (Sodom and Gomorrah)

7. What was John the Baptist's food in the wilderness? (Locusts and wild honey)

8. Name the high priest before whom Jesus was tried? (Caiaphas)

9. Name the mount where Noah's ark rested after the flood. (Ararat)

10. Who were the parents of John the Baptist (Elizabeth and Zechariah)

11. What apostle baptized 3,000 people at one time? (Peter)

12. Who wrote the Acts of the Apostles? (Luke)

13. Name the man, a ruler of the synagogue, whose daughter Jesus raised from the dead. (Jairus)

Worship

Hymns: "A Hymn of Glory" 49 *CYH*; "Crown Him with Many Crowns" 59 *CYH*; "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" 88 *CYH*; "Praise to the Lord" 78 *CYH*; Psalm 93 (read in unison)

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53

Prayer: Almighty God, whose blessed Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth even unto the end of the world; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

By Marcus F. Otterbein

THE OTHER PERSON

*The Holy Spirit can make us powerful
allies of Christ if we will let
it work freely in our lives*

WHAT do you and I know about God? First we believe that God is a creating spirit. We do not feel that our universe just happened to exist. We think that a force outside of nature was responsible for creating our world. Just as we know that parts of a watch must be assembled by a jeweler, so we believe that our world was fashioned by a planner—God.

But you and I go a step further. We think of God as a Redeemer as well. Ever since man has been created he has preferred to rebel against God rather than obey him. He has chosen to pit his own will against God's will. This rebellion has brought all kinds of sin and evil into our world. But God has set about to reclaim us from our stubborn insistence upon our own way. Through his Son, Jesus Christ, he has shown the way back to him. So God is not only a creating spirit; he is a redeeming spirit, as well.

Now we come to the third belief about God that we hold. We think that God is a Holy Spirit who counsels and comforts us. God is our spiritual guide.

Through his holy presence he leads us each day to a fuller Christian life.

At this point you might say, "Do we Christians then believe in three Gods? One person who creates, one who redeems, and one who guides?" Well, of course not. We simply believe that God—one God—has revealed himself to us in three different personalities. This union of three personalities in one person is called the Trinity.

Perhaps I can best explain the idea of the Trinity of God by referring to the three forms of water. Water is water, but it has many different forms. For example, water that is frozen is a solid called ice. Water streaming out of a tap is a liquid. Boiling water goes into a gas that is called steam. Yet solid, liquid, or gas—it is all water.

And so Christians believe God is one God and yet he has three persons or functions. He creates, redeems and guides.

Let's think about just a single way in which God shows himself to man—his personality as a guide or comforter who leads us.



HELP FOR WEAK-WILLED DISCIPLES

Shortly before Christ was to ascend to his Father he secretly gathered his followers together. Christ knew they were frightened. He remembered how Thomas had doubted the resurrection. He recalled how Peter had denied knowing him when things got rough. He thought of how, when the soldiers appeared to arrest him, Mark had dashed off into the garden.

As long as Jesus was alive he would lead the small band of followers. But now he was going to his Father's kingdom. How would Peter and Thomas and Mark and all of the other disciples endure the ridicule and trouble that came to them. Worse yet, without the presence of Jesus they might abandon his cause altogether. Jesus knew that a strengthening spirit would have to be sent to rally the disciples and give them the necessary courage and comfort.

In John 14:16 we find how Christ planned to build his followers' faith. And I will pray the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you for ever. He will be the Spirit of

Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him or knows him. You know him, however, for he dwells with you, and will be in you."

This Counselor, sent by God, was the Holy Spirit. It not only buoyed the disciples. But it has been at work among Christians ever since.

The Holy Spirit is truly the presence of God within you. It strengthens and speaks to you each day of your life. Of course, the Holy Spirit is not someone whom you can touch and see. Rather it is a presence—the force of God in us.

It is amazing to see how the Holy Spirit can affect a man. Take Peter, for instance. When Jesus was arrested and then detained in the home of the high priest for questioning Peter stood out on the porch. He curtly denied that he had ever known Christ. This act was, perhaps, the blackest Peter had ever committed. But after Christ's ascension, when the disciples needed a leader, Peter became a spiritual rock. The only thing that changed Peter was the presence of God in his heart.

Luther defined the purpose of the

Holy Spirit in a very helpful way. In his *Small Catechism* he wrote, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him, but that the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me by his gifts, and cleansed and preserved me in true faith; in like manner as he calls, gathers, enlightens and cleanses the whole Christian church."

Peter was not able to come to God on his own strength. But God's Holy Spirit sought him. So it is with us. God's spirit must overwhelm us first.

If we would let the Holy Spirit work freely in our lives we could be more powerful allies of Christ. Most of us think, however, that we can lead good lives on our own. As a result we forget the work of the Holy Spirit.

FROM GOOD TO EVIL

Five hundred years ago there lived in Italy a famous artist named Leonardo da Vinci. Very few people in all the history of the world have had as many talents as this man. Leonardo da Vinci was a poet, sculptor, architect, philosopher, musician, scientist, machinist, and artist. He did not just dabble in these activities. He was master of them all.

Perhaps his greatest achievement as an artist was a painting called "The Last Supper." He painted it on the wall of a convent.

Da Vinci's plan of work was to paint the central figure of Christ first in the picture. He searched far and wide for a young man to model for it. After months of looking he found a young man who sang in the choir of a church in Milan, Italy. The youth was named Pedro Bandonello.

Pedro was handsome. His features were mild and gentle. It was evident that he was a sincere Christian. So for many weeks Pedro stood before the artist as a model for the portrait of Christ.

Years passed by. Da Vinci had completed all of the figures in the painting except one, that of Judas. Again he

sought a model and finally in a local tavern he discovered a worn out man, evil etched in the lines of his face. This man, a social outcast, had been in all sorts of trouble with the law. When da Vinci offered him money to pose as Judas he gladly accepted.

At last da Vinci finished his painting. Only then did he discover that the man who modelled as Judas was Pedro Bandonello—the same man who in his youth had posed for the figure of Christ in the painting.

After modelling for the portrait Pedro had begun a life of evil and drink. He refused to allow the Spirit of God to dwell within him and help him. During this time his appearance had so changed from being Christ-like that he looked evil and fitted the description of Judas.

As you go about your daily affairs at home, church and school, learn to call upon the Holy Spirit for help. He will guide you in overcoming evil and strengthen your Christian faith.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRESENTATION

If you can secure a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's painting "The Last Supper," use it as your worship center. You might point out the figures of Christ and Judas (the one holding the money bag) mentioned in the article.

Try to develop an interesting discussion on how the Holy Spirit works in our lives in every day activities. Perhaps a panel of several members could suggest helpful points of view. Or you might divide your group into four sections, appoint team captains, and give the groups 10 minutes to list ways in which the Holy Spirit can help us in our every day activities. Each captain can report the findings of his group.

WORSHIP

The order of worship could well be "Service for Personal Dedication" in the Christian Youth Hymnal.

Scripture: John 14:16

Hymns: "Come Holy Spirit" *CSB* 14 *CYH* 66; "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" *CSB* 15 *CYH* 55

Christ -- the only person to return from
the dead -- teaches us how to face death

DEATH MUST COME

By Dorothy D. Satre

Opening worship

BUT we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 1 Thess. 4:13-14.

Hymn: "I was Made a Christian"
52 CSB, 126 PSB, 144 CYH

Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, who wilt come again to judge the living and the dead, and call forth all who sleep in the graves, either to the resurrection of life or the resurrection of condemnation: We beseech thee to be gracious to us, and to raise us up to life everlasting, that we may be and abide with thee forever; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Topic material

A young girl lay critically ill in a hospital, facing death. When her pastor called to see her, she said to him, "The church has taught me how to live, but I am not sure it has taught me how to die."

Have you had to face death? Has

anyone in your family died since you were old enough to realize what dying meant? Have you lost a schoolmate? Have you yourself been seriously ill or been in a terrible accident, so that you faced death? What were your thoughts at such a time?

To each one of us death comes in two different ways. The time comes when someone we know dies. We are shocked. If the person is a child or a teenager, we question why one so young has to die. Surely he has his life to live.

The Biblical quotations that appear throughout the article are really part of the topic. It is suggested that you have leaguers prepared ahead of time to read them as you mention the references.

It would be well to have sufficient copies of the *Common Service Book* distributed before the meeting begins so that each of the leaguers can refer to the Order for the Burial of the Dead while you are talking about it.

This subject will undoubtedly provoke questions and comments from your group. Be sure to complete the discussion before the final hymn and prayer.

Otherwise why would God have put him into the world! Certainly a baby should be granted a chance to grow up.

Then we begin to grieve. But the tears we shed are not only for the one who has died. We cry because we realize that we are going to miss that person. Our own lives will have an empty space hereafter. We will start to talk to someone who is no longer with us, and he will not answer.

We cry a little, too, because our own lives are slipping by so swiftly and we know that we are not always the kind of people Christ would have us be.

We must also face death for ourselves. As one boy said, "Death is something we should not fear for it will eventually happen." Science tells us that the minute we are born we begin to die. For some, death will come late, for others, early. The progress made in preventive medicine and in disease control has reached such a point that in the United States a boy or girl who is 12 years old today can expect to live to be 68. That does not mean you will all reach that age. Some must go sooner. And some will live much longer. We do not know when our days will end.

Facing death

How, then, shall we look at death? It is a subject that has demanded the attention of all sorts of thinkers through the ages. "Death is a very peculiar thing because we can only die once. You can't picture death because no human being has ever returned from it." People have speculated about it. Attempts have been made to guess what it is like. It has been called cruel. It has been called sweet.

Man leaves everything behind when he dies. He can take nothing with him. In I Timothy 6:7 we read, "for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world." Actually, we can know nothing about it. And when we do not *know* something, we are afraid of it.

A little child fights against going to bed at night. He isn't through with his play, with the things he wants to do.

Besides he knows that the light will be turned off and then shadows and darkness will leap out. But as he grows older, he realizes that he is quite safe in his dark room. Then he goes to bed willingly.

That is the way it should be with the Christian. As he grows in his faith, he lives each day with an enthusiasm that the non-Christian cannot experience. The non-Christian may apparently be having a wonderful time; he is living for today. But the Christian is living for today *and* for tomorrow. Paul in his letter to the Philippians 1:21 says, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Both religious and secular historical records show that the early Christians knew how to die. They believed Christ's promise, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." They met death, sometimes cruel and violent, with hymns, going joyfully to join their Saviour.

Let us look at the service for the Burial of the Dead which is found in the *Common Service Book* on page 245. The small print tells us that the order of service is to be used for Christians who die; that the pastor should be the first one called and that certain other things are proper or improper in the service. You will notice how much singing there can be in such a service. See how Psalm 130, beginning with deep sorrow, "Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord," is answered by Psalm 23, with its promise of comfort. Read the prayers that, in themselves, bring peace to the grieving heart. You have already heard one that was used to open this meeting.

Do you think of *earthly life* and the *life hereafter* as two separate lives? Instead, look at them together as one everlasting existence. We do not consider our days as bits of time each separate from the other. Each day is a part of our total life. Just so life on earth is a part of life eternal.

Since we should not fear life here, we should not fear it hereafter. We must always remember, however, that the way we will spend life hereafter depends

on how we use it here. It depends on whether we accept Christ's sacrifice as having been made for us and receive the gift of salvation for our souls, through faith in him. The decision is squarely up to us. No one else can choose for us. We must do it ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit.

To help us decide for Christ, God has given us many promises. He has also given us many guideposts for meeting death when it comes to us or to our dear ones. He has revealed to us the great, winning fact that Christ himself died and rose again. The resurrection is the basis of our Christian faith. Christ conquered death by going into the grave and rising again. Sin was overcome when he took upon himself the punishment for all of us. When death comes with what seems to be harsh finality, we know that it is not the end, because Jesus lived after death. Hear the good news as given in Matthew 28:5-6, "But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said.'"

Live close to God

How can we learn to face death courageously? There is no better way than to live close to God all the days of our lives. We must learn to pray effectively. We must be near to him in our thoughts. We must appeal to him for comfort in time of sorrow and lean upon the assurance that he gives us. If we are used to talking with God, it will not be so hard to think of our loved ones with him. Nor will it be difficult to meet him face to face.

We must cultivate the virtues that make a Christian different from a non-Christian. We must forgive those who wrong us. We must love everyone, even those who seem unloveable. We must be honest and truthful in all our dealings, even when it may seem to be to our immediate disadvantage. We must, in short, pattern our lives on Christ's.

Above all, we must . . . "believe on Jesus Christ and him crucified."

This will be easier to do if we know the Scriptures. We should make the Bible part of our lives. The few Scripture verses that are part of this discussion are only examples of the many promises that God has made to his children. It is as necessary for a Christian to have spiritual food for his soul as to have food for his body. We should become so familiar with the Word of God that his promises will come to our minds whenever we are in trouble or sorrow.

Life on earth is a preparation for everlasting life. When we have finished the task given us to do here, we need have no fear of dying. We can say with Simeon (Luke 2:29) "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word." We can say with Stephen (Acts 7:59) "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." We can say with Paul (2 Timothy 4:7) "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Concluding worship

Hymn—"May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill" *CSB* 269, *PSH* 281, *CYH* 206

Prayer—O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death: Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou has led the way, that we may at length fall peacefully asleep in thee, and awake after thy likeness; through thy mercy, O our Lord, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Freddie and Sister Betty, of Philadelphia's Frankford Settlement House tackle a tough problem in scene from filmstrip "Freddie Finds a New Way."

The deaconess who serves our church is

"Sister to All"

By Mildred McClain

TO THE girls in the Luther League of America comes an SOS message of "surrender of self." The letters below, however, are for all junior highs. As you plan for a life's work think

of the church first and consider how you might serve the world by serving Christ. Often you must provide the answer to your own prayer. So as you pray for workers to be sent out, seriously consider if you might be among those workers.

AR BETTY AND DAVE:

You and your leaguers have certainly given me a hard assignment—to write all about deaconesses and their work. There is so much to tell. I'm not sure I can squeeze it all into one letter.

First let me tell you one of my favorite stories about a deaconess who was housemother in a children's home. Oh, yes, it's true. I call it "Earaches."

With a soft, contented sigh Sister Olivette scooped up a book and slid under the covers. Here, at last, was a chance to relax. Big and little boys had been settled for the night, and quiet had crept into every corner of the children's home.

Soon, however, her peace was shattered. An older boy, Eddie, came hurrying to her to report that Johnny had an earache. Swift thoughts fled through Sister Olivette's mind. She was sure Eddie could ease five year old Johnny's earache. So she carefully told him what to do and watched him as he sped away. When Sister Olivette settled down again to her bed.

But something began to trouble her. Deep within her a voice asked, "What could you do if you were really this boy's mother?" She pictured small Johnny, sick and miserable, tossing about unable to sleep. Pricked by a relentless conscience she got up and went to his room.

Lovingly she soothed and comforted Johnny and cuddled him close. Soon he fell fast asleep. Then with a peaceful air she returned to her bed.

The next night Sister Olivette hardly folded back the spread on her bed when a loud knock sounded on the door. She opened it. Not Eddie, nor any of the older boys, stood there this time. Instead, five sleepy little boys in wrinkled pajamas straggled out in a line. And each of them, with a hand on his ear, plaintively piped, "Sister Olivette, we got an earache."

Sister Olivette is only one of many deaconesses helping to care for men, women, and children who need assis-

tance in our church today. Not all, however, are housemothers in a children's home. Some serve in parishes.

Sister Anna, for instance, was a parish deaconess in one of the large trailer camps in Aiken, South Carolina. One day Sister Anna started to walk home after a long session of visiting the people of the camp. The thought of trudging home only increased her very tired feeling. Suddenly a car pulled to the curb and a man called, "Wan'na ride, lady?" Sister Anna gave the young man's face a brief, but searching, glance. Then she accepted his invitation.

As they rode in silence for a distance Sister Anna studied her companion's face. It was very tense. "What's that cross mean?" he asked abruptly. And he nodded to the cross that all consecrated deaconesses wear.

The sudden question did not startle Sister Anna. She explained what a deaconess did in general and what her parish work was in particular. She also spoke about the local Lutheran parish. Soon the conversation became friendly. And the man began to pour out his story of home difficulties. Sister Anna listened and invited him to come to church the next Sunday. He hesitated. But then, as though convinced of her sincerity, he agreed to come.

On Sunday the man, who had so casually offered Sister Anna a ride, was there among the worshippers.

Child care and parish work—those fields still are far from describing all of the positions open to our deaconesses today. There are constant calls for women to serve as directors of religious education, social workers, dietitians, nurses, medical technicians, secretaries, and accountants. Whatever the talent, the church has need of it.

Of course, a deaconess does not go into the work unprepared. She studies under a five-year training plan. Usually she spends three years in study on a college campus or in a professional school and two years of study in specialized and religious training at one of our church's motherhouses in Baltimore or Philadel-

phia. In addition she gives a year of supervised practical work. This work is similar to the year of internship required of medical students.

After her first year of study at the motherhouse, the deaconess student receives the title of "sister" at a special service of investiture. From then on she may wear the uniform of the diaconate. This is a sign that she is indeed a Christian sister to all.

The joy that the deaconess finds in her work is deep and lasting. Her life becomes one of willful and sincere service to Christ and her fellow men.

Sincerely,
SISTER MILDRED

DEAR BETTY AND DAVE:

I certainly appreciated your letter, and especially the questions your leaguers asked. I have dug deep into the history of the diaconate and believe I have the answers to all of them now.

More than 100 years ago, on October 20, 1836, to be exact, a man named Theodore Fleidner established the first Lutheran motherhouse for deaconesses in Kaiserswerth, Germany. His wasn't an easy task. The financial burden was staggering. And the lack of response toward these women workers from their fellow Christians in the church made the progress of the diaconate very slow. Of course, those who accepted the deaconess and received her help found that she served joyfully and tirelessly out of love for Christ and his name.

The first deaconesses were practical nurses who cared for the ill, the poor, and the disabled in a particular parish. Women who desired Christian training along with their nurses' training also studied at the Kaiserswerth Motherhouse. The famous Florence Nightingale was one of these.

The name "motherhouse" was given to the training school because the deaconess lived in a cooperative or sharing household. It offered security, fellowship, rest, and a place of retreat in time of illness or old age.

Slowly the idea of the diaconate began to spread across Europe. More and more women chose this means of discipleship as their life's work.

Then in 1848 five deaconesses from Kaiserswerth crossed the Atlantic Ocean to the United States to help establish Passavant Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Again, just as in Europe, the diaconate was not readily accepted. Few women cared to enter it. It was only after several years that the church awakened to the need of serving-women and to the place of the deaconess in the life of the church in America.

A motherhouse and training school were established in Baltimore. And one that had been opened earlier in Philadelphia was recognized. Young women trained for parish work and parish education at the Baltimore school, and for nursing and social work at the Philadelphia school.

Today young women are being trained for the same types of work at these schools.

I think founder Theodore Flidner would certainly be astonished at the way in which his original plan of the diaconate has grown. Modern deaconesses who serve the church are no longer limited to a career as a nurse, as you already know.

Perhaps you might like to read an incident about Sister Betty, who directed a settlement house located in a less-privileged neighborhood in Philadelphia. Here you will readily see the kind of unique problems that a deaconess serving in one field must quickly solve.

Stepping out of the doorway of the Frankford Settlement House, Sister Betty jerked to attention. At the curb three young boys were perched ready for flight, their sullen faces vying, in blackness with the night. They were staring at a man impatiently pulling at a very flat tire pierced with sharp nails. Each movement he made was accented with shrill descriptive words. As his threats increased the boys backed away as if to escape from his blistering anger.

suddenly Sister Betty walked into a circle of light thrown out by the street light. The boys ran to her and desperation poured out their story. Their pleas of innocence jangled against the complaints about "those ruffians" from the man.

Sister Betty led the boys over to him, and she calmly asked each one to tell her why they were unjustly accused. After their explanations the man laid down his tools and stood up. "Sorry, fellows," he said. "Looks like I ain't been around here with ya."

The boys quickly followed Sister Betty as she turned into the game room at the house. As the door shut behind them, they heard the man shout, "Yer lucky Sister Betty seen ya!"

I am pleased that you asked about the needs for deaconesses. These women are greatly needed—the demand for their services is great. Sister Mildred Winter, executive secretary of our church's Board of Deaconess Work, receives between 12 and 15 calls a month for them. There is just no one to send. At this time the church would have to recruit a dozen girls a month for the diaconate to meet for the need. Almost 90 positions to be filled are on file today. As you can easily see, the demand just cannot be met.

We can do two things about this situation. First we can tell others about the work of the diaconate. Then we can pray that young women of our church will feel the hand of Christ beckoning them and hear him say, "Come, I have need of you." Then let us pray that some will answer, "Here I am, Lord, send me."

Sincerely,

SISTER MILDRED

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION METHOD

Have two leaguers come informally before a group. They may discuss vocations a few of their friends are planning to prepare for in high school and college. Then they might bring the conversation to careers in the church. At this time, they can

read the letters, introducing them by saying, "We would like to read two letters. Then describe the work of deaconesses, and tell how young people like us can help right now."

Perhaps if your church owns a tape recorder, several leaguers might put the letters on tape. Then you can play the tape at your meeting.

LEAFLETS AND AUDIO-VISUALS

Send to the Deaconess Board office, 713 Muhlenberg Building, 1228 Spruce Street, Philadelphia 7, Penna., for the following leaflets (free) to use as resource materials. Or you might distribute them to the leaguers.

"Do You Know," "Calling for . . .," "Vocational Opportunities," "She Could Be You," "Together," "People Need You," "Worship Services for Intermediates," "Poster for Bulletin Board." Also available are mimeographed helps: "Two Minutes" (first series), "Two Minutes" (second series)—human interest stories—and "Vim, Vigor, and Vitality."

You may rent the following audio-visuals: "A Glorious Adventure," black and white filmstrip, operating time 15 minutes, rental cost 75c; "Freddie Finds a New Way," black and white filmstrip, operating time 10 minutes, rental cost 75c plus postage; and "A School for Church Workers," a set of colored slides, operating time 20 minutes, rental cost \$1.00 plus postage.

WORSHIP

Responsive reading: Psalm 27

Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be, Consecrated"

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Hymn: "O Christians Leagued Together"

Silent directed prayer

• • • • •

• "You don't get what you want because you don't ask God for it. And when you do ask He doesn't give it to you, for you ask in quite the wrong spirit—you only want to satisfy your own desires."

James 4: 2, 3

(Letters to Young Churches,
J. B. Phillips)

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VACATIONS OPEN DOORS

Crafts, hobbies, camp, and trips spell an exciting summer

By Erlyn Wilker

MRS. JAMES felt her small son tug at her hand attempting to halt her as she led the way into a large supermarket.

"What's the matter?" she asked the boy.

"Mom, how come the door opened? We didn't touch it. Did someone see us coming and jerk the chain to open it?"

"Wait, I'll show you," his mother replied. "This other door swings out. Come, we'll walk through it."

Then she explained that by stepping into a ray of light in front of the door each person set off a signal that automatically opened the door.

Summer vacations are a "supermarket" for exciting experiences. Its doors to the super values will open to us if we step into the ray of light that leads to these high ideals. From early spring everyone looks forward to a few weeks in the year when they are released from pressure of work or studies. Since a long vacation stretches before junior highs you can plan many exciting activities that are purposeful as well as relaxing.

We should include God in our vacation plans. He is always on hand working steadfastly for our good. When he is a part of our recreation our spirits as well as our bodies are renewed.

Let us consider how we can shop in the supermarket of new and better vacation experiences.

Vacationing at home

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS—"Things we do with our hands—the smallest of them will appear to the glory of God and the reward of the doer. Hobbies have a way of relaxing tired bodies and giving us

a new incentive in life. Hobbies bring pleasure and joy as we create objects of beauty and usefulness."

Vacation is an opportune time to begin a hobby or to cultivate one you've already started. You will find that "collecting" hobby, such as stamps, fun and worthwhile. Many people gather and catalog records, dolls of various countries, rocks, insects, plants, glassware, and so forth.

Collections belonging to members of your league could be displayed at a meeting. You might plan a particularly colorful exhibit around stamps or dolls of the countries where our church has a mission field.

Other hobbies you might find relaxing are: Plaster molding, whittling and carving, model making, photography, puppetry, sketching, cuddly toy and doll making.

Of course, your league might want to plan a "Craft Shop" as its project this summer, each leaguer choosing the crafts he would like to specialize in. Girls like to make shellcraft jewelry. Perhaps some could decorate small plastic crosses with shells as favours for shut-ins. At the end of the summer you might want to give the completed articles from the "Craft Shop" to a child's home or a hospital or to shut-ins.

READING—A good book or magazine will always swing wide the door to adventures in our own or a far-off country. And summer, when you are not plagued by homework, is ideal for this hobby. You will find books written for teen-agers reviewed in each issue of *Lutheran Life and High Ideals*.

Some of the books about people and countries where our church has missions would be excellent for reviewing your league.

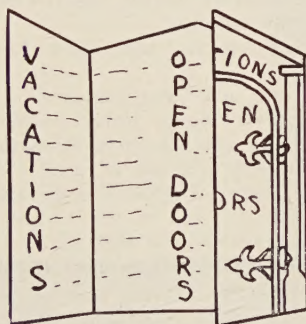
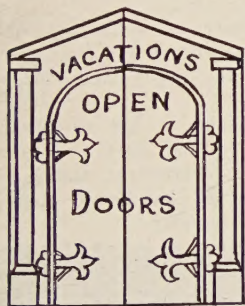
SPORTS—Some communities have supervised playgrounds. If yours does, you probably will participate in its activities. You might volunteer to assist the supervisor in guiding group recreation and games. Such experiences develop leadership and knowledge of recreation that will be useful in your league social activities.

TRAVEL—Perhaps your league can find time to make field trips to places of historical interest in your area. Many

Truly, the treasure house of God's world is flung wide to the camper through contact with field and forest, lake and hill, star and cloud. The camper realizes, for instance, how much he depends on nature for his physical needs when he cooks his own food on an overnight hike, or builds a shelter.

Our camps open doors to social experiences. Here we become friends with teen-agers from other towns and areas.

Camping is a joyful, learning process. The recreation program provides swimming instruction, baseball, boating, archery, hiking and games. In the handicrafts period, activities such as woodwork, whittling, leatherwork, and shellcraft are available. Around the glowing



groups plan trips to scenic spots for sunset or sunrise devotions.

Vacations away from home

CAMP—Teen-agers who attend any one of our church's excellent camps have many wonderful experiences in store for them. The fine Christian leadership and good facilities make camping an event long to be remembered.

Our church camps provide the setting for unusual spiritual experiences. Every morning after the rising bell, campers gather for morning watch. Bible study periods are held later, usually out-of-doors. In addition, there are evening bin prayers, vespers and the regular camp church service on Sunday morning. Here you find Christian fellowship while worshipping in spirit and truth. God's great out-of-doors.

campfire in the evening teen-agers learn how to present stunts, skits and songs.

TRAVELLING—Motor trips lasting several days or weeks are a popular type of vacation today. We need to travel in order to learn how the rest of the world lives.

If our travelling is done on Sunday, we can see how others worship by attending church services along the way. It is a happy experience to worship with Christians of other churches.

VISITING—When you visit friends or relatives living in other areas, be sure to attend their church, Sunday school or youth meetings. Here is a special opportunity to gather ideas for your own league.

Suggestions for the leader

This topic should be developed through group discussion. It is suggested that the adult leader or adviser of the league take charge of presenting the topic. As many as four of the leaguers may act as assistants during the presentation.

You can add interest and encourage group participation by making a large double door out of bristol board or other heavy paper. When opened, the inside may reveal an acrostic, the letters of the title of this topic being written vertically.

After the leader has introduced the topic, using the "electric-eye story" or any other suitable illustration, one of the assistants opens "the doors." Each assistant in turn asks the leaguers to suggest worthwhile vacation activities. Of course, the first letter of each answering sentence should begin with one of the letters shown.

The following are suggestions for answers:

- Visit shut-ins, and other churches.
- Assist Vacation Church School teachers.
- Camp for fun and Christian fellowship.
- Arrange to help someone in need.
- Travel to places of historic and religious importance.
- Inspire someone to be a leaguer.
- Order a book reviewed in *Luther Life* or *High Ideals*.
- Nurture your spirit through prayer.
- Spread good reports. Speak as a Christian.
- Offer your services for church activities.
- Play fair in work or play.
- Enroll in a Vacation Bible School class.
- Nurse a sick friend.

- Do the thing you were too busy to do during school.
- Open your heart to Jesus in quiet meditation.
- Obey God's laws in work and play.
- Read good books.
- Sightsee churches, school, colleges.

Worship

For your worship center display a picture of "Christ Knocking" by Zabeteri or "The Light of the World" by Hunt.

Prelude—Soft music, "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

Call to worship—Psalm 121, p. 45 PSH

Hymn—"Summer Suns Are Glowing" 357 PSH

Scripture—Mark 6:31-36 and Rev. 3:20

Topic

Prayer—Dear Lord, as we come apart rest a while, reveal to us what it means rest one's innermost self. Guide us as we seek good companionship in books, in nature, in ourselves, in friends. Above all, abide thou with us, that with thee as our companion, we may find rest and renewal for our souls. Grant that upon our return from vacation we may be greatly refreshed, and the better be enabled to assume the duties before us. All this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offering

Hymn—"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies" 365 PSH

Things to Do

Appoint a vacation committee of four leaguers to gather information and report at the next meeting on the following forms of recreation.

Reading—Draw up a list of good books from the league library and from your public library that are appropriate for summer reading.

Camping—Make a list of the nearest camps, facilities, and costs.

Crafts—List craftwork supply houses. Gather ideas for handwork your leaguers might do this summer.

Traveling—Suggest points of interest that your league might visit. Include in the list churches, institutions, historical sites, museums and so forth. Secure helpful information on scenic and historic places from your nearest travel bureau and your state or provincial government.

Bibliography

- The Handbook of Skits and Stunts* by Helen and Larry Eisenberg. Association Press, New York City.
- Games for Boys and Girls* by E. O. Harbin. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York.
- Do It Yourself—Tricks, Stunts and Skits* by Bernice W. Carlson. Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York.
- Here's How and When* by A. B. Keiser. Friendship Press, New York.
- Ben Hunt's Whittling Book* by Ben Hunt. Bruce Publishing Co., New York 7, New York.
- Games You Can Make and Play* by Paul V. Champion. Bruce Publishing Company.
- Fun with Scraps* by Viola Henning. Bruce Publishing Company.
- Shellcraft Jewelry Designs*. May be obtained at almost any hobby or craft shop.